FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 NOVEMBER 1984

Libya

Presence in Chad — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told a press conference in Valetta that he is "totally committed" to the agreement on the withdrawal of French and Libyan troops from Chad, declaring that Libya will not send any more airplanes, tanks, or soldiers to that country, AFP reported. While admitting that some Libyan troops may still be in Chad because of "a problem of logistics," Al-Qadhdhafi totally rejected U.S. reports that a major Libyan contingent is still in the northern region of Tibesti. However, he warned that Libya will send troops back to Chad if "any foreign troops" reenter the country.

Meanwhile, in a Paris radio interview, Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou claimed that Al-Qadhdhafi has not withdrawn a single Libyan soldier from Chad, adding that over 4,000 Libyans are still in the country. If the French intend to undertake a new "Manta" operation, it should have "more muscles" than before and should aim to drive the Libyans out of Chad, because force is the only language Al-Qadhdhafi understands, he stated.

Al-Bakkush Affair — Reacting to reports that former Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud described Al-Bakkush as a "good-for-nothing" and a "dead specimen," according to JANA. In Malta, Col al-Qadhdhafi told newsmen that he would not waste his time answering Mubarak's accusations of terrorism, and contended that Mubarak is a "secret agent in the pay of the CIA" rather than a head of state, AFP reported.

Relations With Malta — Col al-Qadhdhafi concluded his visit to Malta by signing a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Maltese leaders, Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported. Before leaving the island, Al-Qadhdhafi disclosed that the treaty covers cooperation in all fields, including military matters, and he added that Libya will help the Maltese Army protect the island's security, according to AFP.

PLO

PFLP and DFLP leaders George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah left for Moscow for talks with Soviet officials on PLO developments related to the call to convene the PNC session in Amman, KUNA reported. They were responding to an "urgent invitation" from the CPSU Central Committee, according to a DFLP statement cited by Radio Monte Carlo. Prior to his departure, Habash, along with PNC speaker Khalid al-Fahum, met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio disclosed.

Meanwhile, PLO official Mahmud 'Abbas, in remarks cited by KUNA, claimed that more than 256 of the 384 PNC members have expressed their readiness to attend the PNC session, a number exceeding the required quorum, which means that the attendance of the 160 members from the "occupied territories" is not essential. Meanwhile, an "extraordinarily sharp dispute" over the PNC session between supporters and opponents of PLO Executive Committee Chirman Yasir 'Arafat is taking place on the West Bank, Jerusalem television noted.

In another development, a British Foreign Office spokesman said that a proposal from 'Arafat to visit Britain in early December to launch his biography would have to be carefully studied, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported, while a spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in London, cited by Jerusalem radio, stated that it would be "unreasonable" for the British Government to admit 'Arafat while it is asking for international cooperation to fight terrorism.

As for Palestinian terrorist activities, EFE revealed that the second-in-command for Europe of Sabri al-Banna's dissident Fatah organization was arrested in Madrid. The agency said that he was in Spain to obtain information on citizens and embassies of moderate Arab countries and that he had been responsible for a plan to murder the head of the PLO office in Madrid in 1981 and for wounding the Israeli ambassador to London in 1982.

Israeli-Lebanese Talks at Al-Naqurah

Some "positive elements" emerged during the discussions, which will resume on 21 November, Jerusalem radio reported citing the UNIFIL spokesman's statement on the 19 November talks. Although the differences between the two sides remain substantial, the "ice was broken" when the two sides engaged in a direct and open dialogue over the Lebanese proposals for the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon, IDF radio said. The Lebanese also indicated that they are ready to make concessions on two issues: their demand for war reparations and the status of the Armistice Commission, according to the radio. On the other hand, a Lebanese source cited by Beirut radio stated that Lebanon has insisted on reparations, adding that the sum demanded is preliminary and that the "correct figure" is much higher. A source on the Lebanese side subsequently stated that the negotiations were characterized by "opposed positions," according to Voice of Lebanon radio, noting that the Lebanese insist on an overall plan for withdrawal, to be following by security arrangements, while Israel stipulates that such arrangements be made before the withdrawal. As for the army of southern Lebanon, which was not discussed in the talks on 19 November, Jerusalem radio said the parties may have decided to refrain from debating the most contentious issues in order to create an impression of progress in the talks.

Syrian Diplomacy

After a trip to Riyadh to convey a message to Saudi King Fahd from President al-Asad "dealing with the situation in the region," Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' flew from Damascus to Sofia to join the delegation headed by Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Damascus television reported. In Sofia, Al-Kasm and Bulgarian Premier Georgi Filipov began an "official and friendly visit" with talks on "questions of mutual interest," according to BTA.

Gulf Affairs

Kuwaiti Islands — On 17 November Kuwait's prime minister visited military installations in northern Kuwait, including Warbah and Bubiyan Islands, accompanied by the defense minister and other officials, *AL-QABAS* reported. Attributing this visit to Kuwait's efforts to assure Iran that it has not handed over three of its Gulf islands to Iraq, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said that discrepancies between Baghdad and Kuwaiti media reports and explanations given to the Iranian charge in Kuwait have lessened Iran's confidence in Kuwait's assurances, according to IRNA.

Iranian Oil Exports — The number of tankers calling at the Khark Island oil terminal has risen significantly recently, Manama's *GULF DAILY NEWS* disclosed, citing oil industry sources. Diplomats in Tehran say the trigger for Iran's apparent oil sales drive may be a fall in hard currency reserves, the paper added.

Afghanistan

Pakistan Border Protests — Pakistan protested a cross-border firing incident which killed one civilian on 14 November, meanwhile rejecting an allegation from Kabul that there had been fire from Pakistan that killed an Afghani on 11 November, Karachi radio reported. On the other hand, the DRA summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul to condemn alleged Pakistani cross-border fire on 16, 17, and 18 November, Kabul radio noted.

Mujahidin Successes — A Soviet Army general was killed when rebel forces shot down his helicopter "last week," Western diplomatic sources in New Delhi claimed, according to AFP. Rebels reportedly also shot dead the head of the Afghan Secret Service (KHAD) in Lowgar Province, south of Kabul, on 20 October, according to the same AFP report. Furthermore, Tehran radio reported that Muslim revolutionaries liberated "three important regions" in Ghowr Province.

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Further Reportage on PNC Meeting

'Arafat Assassination Plot Reported

GF191900 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Nov 84 pp 1, 26

[Excerpts] A senior Palestinian official revealed yesterday to *AL-ANBA'* that a assassination attempt on Yasir 'Arafat was discovered in Amman while he was presiding over a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee. In statement to *AL-ANBA'*, Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, alias Abu al-Hawl, member of the Fatah Central Committee and chief of security for the Palestinian revolution, said that certain groups of people who had planned to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat have been arrested. He said that one of these groups have been arrested in Jordan recently. He added: "The United States and Israel decided to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat a long time ago. It is regretful that there a similar decision has been adopted by an Arab party." The assassination attempt coincided with news about the possibility of an Israeli attack against the venue of the PNC meetings in Amman.

'Arafat Due in Amman; Qaddumi Arrives

JN200720 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-RA'Y* — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Amman tomorrow, Wednesday. Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, will arrive in Amman from Kuwait today. Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Amman yesterday evening to participate in the preparations being made to convene the PNC.

'Arafat Comments on Leadership Meeting

JN191715 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has explained during a meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis that the stands of the various Palestinian bodies, factions, and dignitaries on the convocation of the PNC have been discussed. He said the PLO Executive Committee meeting, he called in Tunis 2 days ago, was a meeting that was proposed by a number of PNC members in response to the so-called final-hour dialogue.

Monte Carlo on Amman Preparations

JN181742 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] It has virtually been confirmed that the PNC will convene in Amman on 22 November after that the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis yesterday was canceled. Some resistance factions had called for a PLO Executive Committee meeting to discuss ways of attaining Palestinian accord that would help in deciding another venue and date for the PNC.

A responsible source in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine stated that the refusal of the PFLP and National Alliance parties to attend the PLO Executive Committee meeting undermined this meeting.

Palestinian officials continued to make the necessary arrangements today to convene the PNC in Amman. PNC Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun said he expects that the necessary quorum for the PNC meeting will be available. The PNC agenda is expected to deal with all political, military, and financial issues that are under discussion in the Palestinian arena. The PNC will also elect the new PLO Executive Committee members and a new PNC speaker. Al-Za'nun said that if the quorum is not attained, the PNC members meeting in Amman will discuss the points listed on the agenda without making decisions. However, reports from Kuwait today mention that Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] stressed that Fatah will withdraw from the PLO if the necessary quorum for the PNC meeting is not attained.

It has become clear that the PNC will not make dramatic political decisions because the conferees are anxious to mitigate the acute differences among the resistance factions. Several Palestinian officials have stressed that the Amman meeting does not mean that there is an identical Jordanian-PLO policy and that the PLO will join the so-called Amman-Cairo-Baghdad axis.

The PNC will meet in the Palace of Culture in the Sports City in Amman. Some 2,500 persons, including PNC members, guests, and observers, will attend. Some sources believe that King Husayn will deliver the opening speech in Yasir 'Arafat's presence.

PLO Official on Upcoming Session

GF191120 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 Nov (WAKH) — The director of the PLO office in Bahrain, Wafa Nabhan, has asserted that the PNC's 17th session, scheduled to be held in Amman on Thursday, will discuss two primary issues. In a statement published in Manama today, the Palestinian official said the first issue is the election of a new PLO Executive Committee, now that the current PLO Executive Committee has submitted its resignation to the PNC, as well as the election of a new PNC speaker — the post which is currently occupied by Khalid al-Fahum. The second issue is the means to reaffirm and reinforce the legitimacy and unity of the PLO, particularly against those who believe they have been able to split PLO unity and create holes in its ranks. Nabhan also said the task of the upcoming PNC session is to reaffirm the PLO's unity and legitimacy and safeguard independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

PNC Spokesman Press Conference

JN200929 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Nov 84 pp 1, 20

[Tawfiq al-'Abid's dispatch]

[Text] Amman — Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, PNC official spokesman and official in charge of the PLO Foreign Information Department, has disclosed that the PLO has rejected a Syrian demand to prevent the condemnation or trial of the dissidents, Ahmad Jibril, and Al-Sa'iqah. He said: We have rejected this demand and we insist on informing the Palestinian people's representatives about what happened in Tripoli and Al-Biqa' so that they can pass their judgment.

At a news conference at the Al-Quds Hotel yesterday, Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman said: Although Fatah is the Palestinian revolution's basic faction and backbone, it will not adopt a decision on behalf of the Palestinian people's representatives. He said that the Palestinian people's representatives will be free to pass judgment on those who have aimed their guns at the Palestinian fighters and camps.

He stressed that the convocation of this PNC session is the Palestinian people's reply to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the Syrian role against the PLO and the Palestinian fighters who left Tripoli due to the Syrian shelling in 1983. He said: We want to prove to the Zionists and the U.S. Administration that the PLO will continue to be the difficult factor in the Middle East and that it will not leave the conflict arena, but will remain effective in it.

'Abd al-Rahman pointed out that the new leadership the PNC will elect will be an independent leadership that is not mortgaged to anyone. He said that those who fired at the Palestinian fighters and shelled the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps will be excluded from this new leadership. He added that the major concern of the new PLO leadership will be aimed at implementing the military strategy that will be approved by the PNC.

He said: In view of the balance of power in favor of the Zionist enemy, there is no scope for political discussion. Those who are slandering us in Damascus should know that Fatah, which has struggled against the enemy, will continue to be honest to the Palestinian gun, the Palestinian decisionmaking, and our people's objectives of liberation, repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent state. He stressed that the major task of the new leadership would be to escalate armed struggle in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon. He said: Just as the fighters of the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces have foiled the 17 May agreement, so they will be able to foil Camp Murphy, which is sponsered by the Syrian regime.

He said: We strongly condemn any Syrian commitment to Israel or the U.S. Administration to prevent the PLO fighters' return to southern Lebanon. He described these commitments, which Syria has approved, as flagrant treason to the Palestine question and a deviation from the Arab summits' resolutions. He said that the PNC is the Palestinian council of steadfastness, the Palestinian representatives will affirm their independent will, and the PNC session will be an occasion to reiterate the independent national identity of the Palestinian people.

'Abd al-Rahman stressed that the PLO will not be tied to anyone, nor will it be a card in anyone's hand in this region. He said: In light of the circumstances that prevent the participation of some independent Palestinian organizations, the 17th PNC session will keep the door open to these organizations in order to resume their role in the PLO Executive Committee when the pressure on these organizations is removed.

Answering a question, 'Abd al-Rahman said: There will be no scope for political discussion as is being said in Damascus. We will not join Camp David; the Palestinian question is bigger than anyone, and the leadership should rise to the level of this question. He said: We believe that international and Arab circumstances are inclined toward accepting an amended U.S. initiative. He said that this initiative is expected to be submitted to the Arab summit that will be held etween next May and June.

He pointed out that new blood would be injected into the PLO Executive Committee which the PNC will elect, and that there will be no vacant seats. He explained that the PNC will discuss a military strategy to escalate armed struggle in southern Lebanon and the occupied territories, and that this military strategy will take into consideration the lack of bases in Arab territories neighboring occupied Palestine.

Answering another question 'Abd al-Rahman said: The talks that are being held in Al-Naqurah are not Lebanese-Israeli talks, but are actually Israeli-Syrian talks. He said: We are against these talks and we will foil them because they include a frank Syrian commitment that the Syrian Army will prevent the Palestinian fighters from returning to southern Lebanon or from carrying out operations against the Israeli enemy. He said that the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples are inseparable twins, and that a formula which organizes the Jordanian-Palestinian relations had been reached. This formula is confederation on the basis of an independent state after the PNC's approval.

Qaddumi Statement on Committee Meeting

JN191757 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Abu al-lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has said that the PLO Executive Committee has decided to continue efforts to convene the PNC. It urges everyone to abandon differences and participate in this important session. In a statement transmitted by WAFA in Tunis yesterday, Brother Abu al-Lutf explained that Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat'] call for a PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis 2 days ago was in response to a number of PNC members and in response to every sincere call for Palestinian national unity. The following is the text of the statement:

In response to the desire of a number of PNC members and out of eagerness to respond to every sincere call for national unity, Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, called for an all-member Executive Committee meeting including the brothers in Damascus and the brother PNC speaker. Only one item was placed on the agenda of this meeting — discussion of the current Palestinian situation, including the PNC. However, this sincere desire to reactivate the PLO's institutions, starting with the Executive Committee, and to eliminate the paralysis in the PLO and its institutions were rejected by those stationed in Damascus, just as were the previous calls for national unity.

The negative response and absence of these brothers from the meeting reaffirms their separatist stands and continuing policy of striking at the PLO and its legitimate institutions. Therefore, the Palestinian leadership, which bears the trust of struggle before its people, cannot stand idle on this continued destructive policy toward the PLO.

Striking at the PLO is destructive to our people's struggle heritage and their struggle institutions which they established over 20 years by giving up tens of thousands of martyrs, wounded, and detainees. We cannot allow this. We will defend and protect the PLO and protect independent Palestinian decisionmaking through our people's support for the PLO and its legitimate institutions and leadership. On this basis, we will continue our endeavor to convene our PNC on the scheduled date and venue. We urge everyone to give priority to our people's supreme interest over any other interest. We urge everyone to attend our council meetings, which is the natural and legitimate place to settle our affairs, make our fateful decisions, and protect our institutions and our people's achievements.

AL-SHA'B, AL-FAJR on PNC, Al-Fahum

JN161846 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1546 GMT 16 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Real National Interest," Jerusalem *AL-SHA'B* says: Yesterday SANA announced that PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum rejected Yasir 'Arafat's call for him, on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee, to convene the PNC's 17th session on 22 November in Amman. It is known that Al-Fahum rejected the PNC's convening because the Syrian regime rejects the council session. It is also known that Al-Fahum's stand was announced through SANA, because SANA is an organ of Al-Fahum, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, and forces linked to the Syrian intelligence department. SANA these days is even trying to falsify statements by Democratic Alliance officials.

However, it is not understood or accepted that Al-Fahum claims concern about national unity, the Palestinian march, and national interests. Al-Fahum is the Syrian regime's senior ambassador to the Palestinian arena. Al-Fahum's election as council speaker regrettably took place for considerations that were related to building strong relations with Syria. In 1977, when the PNC convened in Cairo, many members of various national factions protested when he was reelected speaker of the council.

At that time, the blood shed in Tal al-Za'tar and the Lebanese mountain was still fresh. The shameful stand adopted by Al-Fahum during the Syrian invasion of Lebanon was also fresh in the mind. However, the Palestinian leadership believed that there was interest in reelecting Al-Fahum as speaker of the council in order to heal the wounds and show Syria that the PLO was ready to open a new page of cooperation in order to face the dangers and hostile conspiracies.

The national interest about which Khalid al-Fahum is speaking calls for removing malignant Arab tumors from the Palestinian body, for maintaining independent Palestinian decisionmaking, and for protecting it from attempts to impose hegemony, tutelage, and containment. National unity means removing the paralysis and fragmentation in the legitimate Palestinian institutions. Instead of calling for more postponement and procrastination to peddle the plot aimed at establishing an alternate PLO, national unity calls on everybody to unite their ranks and to participate in the PNC's 17th session, where independent Palestinian decisions are formulated, differences are solved, and unified stands that can confront hostile conspiracies will be crystallized.

Under the headline "The PNC Is the Last Torch in the Long Tunnel," *AL-FAJR* says: The Palestinian arena in the occupied West Bank and Gaza may be the most prominent Arab arena that defines stand on convening the PNC's 17th session. This stand was clearly entrenched through the need to hold this session as soon as possible at any place [words indistinct]. While the legitimate Palestinian leadership, represented by Commander in Chief Yasir 'Arafat, was looking for venue and was faced with obstacles, impossible conditions, and attempts to seize independent Palestinian decisionmaking and divide the PLO, the occupied territories' masses were nursing their wounds and trying to reinforce hope and enthusiasm by national unity. The obstacles, conditions, and attempts against the PLO began to harm the PLO's repetation and endanger the Palestinian fate.

The Israeli contribution in this respect was clear. This contribution was represented in the order issued by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in which he prevented the PNC members in the occupied homelands from crossing the bridge and attending the council wherever it is held. Thus, all national organizations, institutions, and personalities in the occupied territory decided to announce their clear stand in support of holding the PNC session on 22 November in Amman. The occupied territory masses' insistence on holding the PNC session at the defined venue and on the date set stems from their rallying around their legitimate leadership and based on their confrontation of developments in the region.

AL-FAJR concludes: The PNC's 17th session will be held. It is the last torch in the long dark tunnel. We will not allow anybody to extinguish it no matter what.

Khalaf, 'Abd al-Hamid on PNC

JN191803 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, has said he is confident that the legal two-thirds quorum needed for the PNC, which is composed of more than 300 members, will be attained. At a meeting of popular Palestinian federations and dignitaries in Kuwait, Brother Abu Iyad added: It is in the interest of the Palestinian people for the PNC session to convene as scheduled.

Brother Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], member of the Fatah Central Committee, said yesterday that Syria and Libya are trying to impose control over the PLO and independent Palestinian decisionmaking. Brother Abu al-Hawl said that the convocation of the PNC in Amman will enable independent Palestinian decisions to be made.

'Abbas Says Quorum 'Assured'

LD191551 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Tunis, 19 Nov (KUNA) — Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu Mazin], member of the PLO Executive Committee, said here today "that the presence of two-thirds of the members of the 17th PNC session to be held in the Jordanian capital next Thursday [22 November] is assured." Abbas told KUNA that "more than 256 members of the PNC out of a total of 384 members have told the Palestinian leadership in Tunis of their readiness to attend the 17th session. This means that a quorum exists by a majority well above the required two thirds of council members."

Questioned about the position of the 160 members of the national council who are at present in the occupied land, Abbas said that "the presence of these brethren is not essential, although we would have liked it. Those present in the occupied land do not form part of the quorum; they have not taken part in any past council sessions because they are banned from leaving the homeland by the Zionist occupation authorities."

The PLO Executive Committee member explained that "the number of PNC members at present in Syria is no more than 50." He described the nonattendance of these members at the 17th council session as "constituting no problem at all."

Fatah Revolutionary Council Statement

JN192010 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus — In its statement yesterday on the convening of the antinational Amman council, the Fatah Provisional Revolutionary Council stressed that the return of the deviationist leaders of 'Arafat's Central Committee to the agent Jordanian regime's capital makes them a partner of that regime in its conspiratorial role. WAFA cited the statement as saying that that deviationist leadership is the same as that of the regime hostile to the Palestinian people's interests, their national aspirations, and their right to self-determination on their own land.

The statement added that the return of these deviationists to Amman means a complete surrender by that leadership to the hostile U.S. program in the region. It also means that this deviationist leadership's policy has been dominated by the counter-projects of Husayn's regime. It added: Our people will not be deceived by the false slogans of 'Arafat and his supporters. National unity and, consequently, the PLO'S unity with its various institutions can be achieved only through a national program based on the National Charter. It added that 'Arafat's deviationist course since his departure from Beirut and his intention to convene the antinational council in Amman is a practical interpretation of the Palestinian rightists' program, which is linked to the reactionary axis consistent with imperialist and Zionist projects.

In conclusion the statement called on the national Palestinian and Arab forces to work out a program to confront and foil 'Arafat's trend, save the PLO from joining the counterprojects, and draw up political formulas to lead Palestinian national action. This will be achieved only by undermining the trend of deviation, ending the state of hesitation and confusion from which some are suffering, and crystallizing a national, revolutionary alternative.

Foreign Delegations To Attend

JN200750 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-DUSTUR* — Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, and the DPRK have informed the PLO that they will send official delegations to attend the 17th PNC session to be held in Amman on Thursday.

Hawatimah Interviewed on PNC

JN161855 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Telephone interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in Damascus by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Antoine Abu Samrah; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Antoine Abu Samrah] All observers are waiting to see what position Nayif Hawatimah will adopt. You are said to be the one who will tip the balance in the Palestinian equation following Yasir 'Arafat's call for convening the PNC in Amman on 22 November. You are trying to postpone the meeting in order to avoid, as you have often said, division in the Palestinian arena. Now you are trying to achieve a postponement through the Executive Committee meeting that will take place in Tunis tomorrow. What do you expect of this committee meeting despite the fact that Dr George Habash, for example, will not take part?

[Hawatimah] Our call is based on achieving Palestinian national unity with the least possible losses — achieving the unity of the PLO, the major achievement of the Palestinian people. Therefore, we raised a slogan that rejects unilateral actions and adventurous disruption but supports activating the PLO's institutions — the Executive Committee and Central Council. Moreover, we called for initiating a comprehensive dialogue in preparation for the next session. On this basis, the unilateral action in calling for convening the 17th session in Amman must stop.

We believe that the possibility of a national, unitary salvation does exist. We are supported in this view by the initiative of the 37 PNC members in Amman, who represent all the Palestinian resistance factions and who clearly announced their support for activating the Executive Committee and Central Council and who opposed the unilateral call for convening the 17th session. We are also supported in this view by the sons of the occupied land — the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip. I have before me now a petition signed by more than 200 prominent dignitaries and trade unions starting with Bassam al-Shak'ah and ending with the last trade union in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They all voice their opposition to any unilateral action and adventurous disruption and their support for activating the PLO, the Executive Committee, and the PLO's Central Council in return for postponing the 17th session until a comprehensive dialogue is held in order to achieve a comprehensive agreement, in light of which the 17th PNC session will be convened. This is based on the 16th session resolutions and the Aden-Algiers agreement, which constitutes a sound basis for restoring the PLO's unity.

All the local Arab municipal councils in Galilee, Negev, and the triangle will hold a general conference today to give an opinion similar to ours, thus affirming the unity of the Palestinian people in the areas occupied in 1948 with their people in areas occupied in 1967 and in the diaspora. On this basis, we expect that this general stand by the majority of our people will find a response from the brothers in Fatah who took unilateral action and from the others who are exercising the policy of disrupting the PLO's institutions.

The PLO Executive Committee will meet either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow with the constitutional majority in accordance with the initiative of the 37 PNC members in Amman. On this basis, a decision will be made postponing the session, calling the Central Council to meet, and forming a prepratory committee to achieve a comprehensive national dialogue in preparation for convening a successful national council — a national unity council and not a council for dismemberment and destruction of the PLO's unity.

[Abu Samrah] However, if the PLO Executive Committee convenes and reaches no result to convince Yasir 'Arafat, who has frequently said that he will convene the PNC on the set time and place — and if 'Arafat insists on this — then what your stand will be?

[Hawatimah] In that case, Brother Yasir 'Arafat will be opting for a political decision whose results will be very serious. This means that he has decided to join the Amman-Cairo axis with its political trends on the basis of the Reagan plan, be it amended or not. We will not back that policy. However, if 'Arafat responds to reason and the unionist political reality expressed in the PLO's phased [Marhali] program, the PNC resulutions, particularly the 16th PNC session, and the Aden-Algiers agreement which Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] signed on behalf of the Fatah Central Committee, of whom 'Arafat is a member — if he responds to this, then this means that we have saved the PLO's unity, because saving the PLO's unity means saving the Palestinian people's unity. Without PLO unity, the Palestinian people will be fragmented, as was the case betgween 1948 and 1967. If that happens, our people's legitimate and sole representative will be lost, and our national question, which is a question of people, land, and an independent state, will turn into an issue of borders between Israel and the neighboring Arab states in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242.

This is why the issue is very serious. It is much more serious than acting at one's discretion. We must resort to the PLO's prorgam, the PNC resolutions, and the Aden-Algiers agreement, which all say that the PLO is a wide national front for our people's classes including all their political, organizational, and ideological groups. We must respect all this and not turn the PLO into a means of fragmentation in the hands of this or that faction or this or that leader.

[Abu Samrah] I understand that if Yasir 'Arafat insists on convening the PNC in Amman next week, then an estrangement will take place between you and him. Is any compromise possible?

[Hawatimah] The compromise was already proposed by the 37 PNC members in Amman and the forces of the Democratic Alliance which agreed in Aden during the period 19-24 October, with the participation of PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. This agreement is based on reactivating the PLO's institutions, the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council, to pave the way for a comprehensive national dialogue and to prepare for the PNC's next session in return for canceling any threats to convene the PNC at the hands of a one faction or one group of that faction. This agreement is also based on safeguarding the PLO's unity on the basis of reactivating the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council, and comprehensive dialogue as an alternative to unilateral and adventurous calls which represent two sides of a destructive coin that is aimed at turning the PLO into splinter groups that would split the Palestinian people into separated islands and turn our struggle 20 years back to the situation before the June aggression in 1967.

This is the balanced solution. The compromise solution we propose is supported by the 37 PNC members in Jordan. It is also supported by all personalities, organizations, and the municipal councils in the territories occupied in 1967 and 1948.

[Abu Samrah] Thank you, Brother Nayif.

Habash, Hawatimah Leave for Moscow

LD191639 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 Nov (KUNA) — Two radical Palestinian leaders who oppose the call to convene next Thursday's [22 November] PNC session, left for Moscow today at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. Palestinian sources here said that the leaders of the PFLP and the DFLP, George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, had left for Moscow as members of the Palestinian Democratic Alliance, which includes the Palestinian Liberation Front and the Palestinian Communist Party.

The sources added that the delegation, representing the four Palestinian sides, would hold talks with Soviet officials on the latest Palestinian developments regarding the call for convening the 17th PNC session in Amman. The talks are also aimed at reaching a common working formula for resolving the grave situation through which the PLO is passing, and at maintaining its unity and independence as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Hawatimah Arrives in Moscow

JN191730 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] issued a statement today in which it said that DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah arrived in Moscow today leading a

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Leader Previews Upcoming Summit

LD180358 Kuwait KUNA in English 1531 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 17 (KUNA) — The upcoming Kuwait summit of GCC heads of state will seek to "translate the slogan of self-reliance into concrete and realstic frameworks and formulas," the council's Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah said Saturday.

Speaking to journalists after meeting with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Bisharah said the six leaders would stress in particular the importance of boosting their military potential and strengthening defence cooperation. But in reply to a question he said that unifying fully the armed forces of the six states was "a very advanced step" which it is premature to talk about at the present. What was needed now as to create a "joint viewpoint" from which "firm ground" could be prepared for cooperation in the military field.

Bisharah said it was unlikely the six heads of state would discuss the draft GCC security agreement, which he said needed more study through the usual Gulf channels. He explained that the GCC Secretariat had received no response from members over Kuwaiti proposals to ammend some of the articles of the draft agreement. Nevertheless, Bisharah said that security issues were high on the list of the council's priorities as member states were intent on "steering the region clear of international conflicts."

Further Remarks on Summit

GF180700 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 18 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] The secretary-general of the GCC said in Kuwait yesterday he did not expect council leaders to discuss an internal security accord at their summit later this month. Abdallah Bisharah said Kuwait, which had previously expressed reservations about some proposals for an accord, had submitted a memorandum on its position and this had been circulated to other member countries. Bisharah said he did not expect the summit to consider an accord as the issue required more study. Kuwait has objected to provisions that would, for example, expand the extradition requirements of GCC countries and also allow "hot pursuit" by the police or military forces of one state up to a certain distance into a neighbouring country. Bisharah said GCC leaders would concentrate on bolstering their military ability and ways of co-ordinating efforts in defence and other fields.

Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, echoed hopes expressed by the country's crown prince recently that the summit would find a way to end the four-year-old Iraq-Iran war. "We hope the summit will produce a formula to stop the war soon and end the bloodshed between two Muslim neighbours, while promoting stability and security in the Gulf," he said. He expressed regret at the attack against the Kuwait Embassy building in West Beirut on Friday, blaming it on an "extremist group" which he did not name.

GCC To Hold Summits in Riyadh From 1986

GF190546 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 19 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Gulf Cooperation Council summits will be held in Riyadh from 1986, according to Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani. The Saudi newspaper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* quoted the minister as saying that from 1986 the six heads of state would meet annually at the council's Riyadh headquarters. The planned venue of the 1985 GCC summit is Oman. The first summit in 1981 was held in Riyadh. Bahrain and Qatar have hosted the other two.

Qatari Foreign Minister Arrives For GCC Meeting

LD192154 Kuwait KUNA in English 1647 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 19 (KUNA) — Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani arrived here Monday to take part in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the GCC. Sheikh Ahmad was received on arrival by Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Secretary General of the GCC 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, Foreign Undersecretary Rashid al-Rashid, ranking officials and ambassadors of the GCC countries to Kuwait and Kuwait's ambassadors to the GCC states.

The Qatari minister described the circumstances through which the region is passing as sensitive and delicate. He added in a statement to reporters that the agenda will include issues of great importance which cover military and security affairs. Shaykh Ahmad expressed hope that tomorrow's meeting will discuss all issues "with a fraternal and positive spirit" in preparation for presenting those issues to the GCC summit.

Shaykh Ahmad is the third GCC foreign minister to arrive here today to attend the conference. Saudi and Omani foreign ministers are due to arrive here tomorrow.

AL-SIYASAH on Proposed GCC Initiative on Gulf War

GF161522 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 Nov 84 pp 1, 22

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources in Baghdad told *AL-SIYASAH* that the Iraqi leadership alluded to His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, heir apparent and prime minister, to apprise Iran on the GCC initiative which pertains to ending the Iraqi-Iranian war so that this initiative will have the adequate power required for execution. In light of that, these sources speculated that his highness the heir apparent will visit Tehran immediately after the convocation of the GCC summit which will be held in Kuwait on 27 November. His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah had pointed out that the GCC summit will study a formula to end the war. His highness also praised the positive response of the Iraqi leadership to the initiatives designed to end the war, to terminate the bloodshed and to preserve national resources.

Associated Iraqi sources told *AL-SIYASAH* that the main points of the GCC initiative, which is designed to end the war, do not contravene the other initiatives launched by the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement. Other Gulf sources noted that the Gulf delegation in response to an urgent invitation from the CPSU Central Committee. The statement made it clear that similar urgent invitations were sent to all parties in the Palestinian Democratic Alliance. I have also learned that George Habash will leave for Moscow within a few hours leading a PFLP delegation.

The DFLP statement noted that the Democratic Alliance delegations will hold important talks with the CPSU Central Committee particularly in view of the separate call for holding the PNC in Amman and the threats against PLO unity. The statement added that the talks aim at reaching formulas for joint action to deal with the serious PLO situation. The real causes for these urgent, surprise inviation have not become clear yet.

I have learned from a highly placed DFLP source that the DFLP will issue an important political statement tomorrow in which it will make its stands on the various current Palestinian issues clear. The DFLP denied reports that it intends to break its alliance with the PFLP — an alliance known as the Joint Command. The DFLP stated that Nayif Hawatimah has issued the following appeal:

I issue a brotherly, earnest appeal to the brothers in the Fatah Central Committee to take the initiative and save the situation by announcing the postponement of the PNC's 17th session for a certain period in order to find a way out of the present crisis. Hawatimah said: The current situation threatens all our people's gains with destruction. In order to preserve Palestinian legitimacy and maintain a unified, independent PLO, a Fatah Central Committee call for canceling the PNC meeting has become an urgent national demand.

Habash Leaves Damascus for Moscow

JN200821 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Dr George Habash left Damascus for Moscow at dawn today in response to an urgent invitation from the CPSU. Yesterday Dr Habash met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and discussed with him for about 3 hours the situation in the Palestinian arena. It was learned from informed sources in the Syrian capital that this meeting was positive and may have important results on the Palestinian and Arab levels. The same sources added that an important meeting was held at midnight yesterday between George Habash and the Soviet ambassador in the Syrian capital and that this meeting will have an important impact on the Palestinian level.

DPFLP Not To Attend

LD191627 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, 19 Nov (KUNA) — Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, DPFLP assistant general secretary, stressed today that "an explanatory statement will be issued later today on the reasons which prompted the Democratic Front not to attend the 17th PNC session to be held in Amman." In a private statement to KUNA, he said that "we confirm we remain part of the PLO, committed to its charter, and reject any harm to its legitimacy. However, we will not take part in the 17th PNC session to be held in Amman next Thursday: We consider there are political dangers in convening this session in the Jordanian capital; there are also reports from within and outside the occupied land about increasing splits in the ranks of the Palestinian people as a result of this call to convene the PNC."

Khalid al-Hasan Admitted to Hospital

GF191846 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Tunis, 19 Nov (WAKH) — It has been learned that Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has been suffering from an illness for a week and that he is receiving medical treatment in one of the Tunisian hospitals. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat visited Al-Hasan at the hospital today. A number of Palestinian officials, including Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Salih Ra'fat, representatives of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Abu al-'Abbas, assistant secretary general of Palestine Liberation Front, also visited Al-Hasan.

initiative, which will be crystallized by the GCC summit conference, is based on two points: 1. Commitment of Tehran and Baghdad to a temporary truce. During this period concentration will focus on the possibility of convening negotiation talks in order to end this war in a way that preserves the national sovereignty, international borders, and the mutual respect of the two countries. 2. [Establishment] of reconstruction funds that will be financed regionally and internationally.

These sources added that on behalf of the GCC countries, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, heir apparent and prime minister, may convey the details of the initiative to Tehran after it is studied and crystallized by the GCC summit conference in its final and detailed form. He may also be accompanied by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

BAHRAIN

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Interviews Amir

GF200854 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Nov (WAKH) — The Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has warned against foreign interference in the region. He asserted the need to end the Iraqi-Iranian war, saying that this war has a bad effect on the region in every respect.

In a statement published by Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* today, he emphasized the commitment of the GCC countries to the policies they adopted with regard to exerting all efforts to find a peaceful solution that meets the legitimate rights of the two countries. He added that because the children of the region are courageous in their positions and views and sagacious in tackling matters, this will firmly block and counter all the current hazards.

Answering a question as to whether there is a foreign policy toward the United States, he said: It is clear — thus we are not unveiling a secret — that the policy of the region's countries is always designed to ameliorate and develop policies with all nations. It is clear that the United States has an immense influence in all fields.

His highness emphasized the importance of maintaining the basic goal of the establishment of the GCC. He said: The achievements of the GCC during the past period is regarded as a huge and successful example on all levels, where the GCC unified the interests of the children of this region and made them feel as if they were one family whose members share good and bad times. His highness pointed out that the GCC policy stresses a policy of dependence on oneself and having the children of this region shoulder their responsibility in defense of freedom, independence, and preservation of the sovereignty and the stability of their countries.

His highness pointed out that the relationship among the members of the region after the proclamation of the GCC is similar to the relationship among the members of one family and one people with regard to association, harmony, and joint interest. He said: This time is the time of the big gatherings.

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Speaks at National Day Parade

GF181510 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1202 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Speech by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id at military parade held at Al-Fath Square in Al-Watiyah on the 14th anniversary of Oman's national day — live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [applause] Thanks be to God, the creator of heaven and earth. God's prayers be upon the last of the prophets and leader of the faithful, our master, and his scion and companions. [applause] Dear citizens, it pleases us to greet you on this day on which we always meet every year to recount together [applause] the fruit of a whole year of unified efforts and persevering and sincere work in the service of our homeland and to look forward to another year which will be, God willing, an important one. [applause] It is the 15th year of progress in our dear Oman. [applause]

Our proud Oman will remain strong, thanks to the sincerity and fidelity of its loyal people, and thanks to their unified efforts in the march of progress and construction. [applause] Our ceaseless efforts to make our country self-reliant will enable us, God willing, to face calamities, difficulties, and all evils through our inexorable national will. [applause]

We are still sincerely calling on Iraq and Iran to be ruled by wisdom to end the bloody war which has entered its fifth year, claimed the lives of thousands from two Muslim neighbors, dissipated their wealth and resources, and which now constitutes a threat to innocent, peace-loving people and a deep international concern. We emphasize the need for us, Arabs and Muslims, to unify our fateful common causes. [applause]

We will continue our full support for all measures being made to respect and implement international law. We also affirm our support for the just causes of the peoples and countries of the world and our active participation in assisting developing countries which are still aspiring for development. [applause]

At the same time, we will continue to do our best with our brothers, the leaders of the GCC, and we bless the efforts being made to achieve progress and prosperity for our peoples and countries in the epic of cooperation and its march which is an unique example. [applause] We are confident that our fifth summit, which will be held, God willing, in fraternal Kuwait on 27 November, will succeed. [applause]

On the level of fraternal Arab solidarity, we express our pride in Jordan's stand, represented by the decision of the Jordanian monarch, our brother, His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, to resume his country's diplomatic relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt. This wise and realistic decision is a good gesture in inter-Arab affairs. We support and bless this gesture. [applause] It has been proved throughout modern history that Egypt has been the main factor in building Arab edifice and ranks. It has never hesitated in making sacrifices for the causes of the Arabs and Islam; Egypt is worthy of all praise. [applause]

Our citizens. We have seen with pride all evidence of the discipline, efficiency, and sincerity of our Armed Forces in carrying out their holy national duty. [applause] Their efforts have deservedly won our admiration and appreciation. [applause] While working with all efforts to increase the number of the friends of this homeland, we should depend on ourselves and make more efforts for its sake and to elevate it and make it strong. [applause] We are sure that you, the sons of our Armed Forces, are aware of the major responsibilities for the sake of this homeland and in maintaining your high efficiency, you have always demonstrated [applause] despite the hard times. [sentence as heard] We are determined to provide you will all modern means to make your advance equal the civil development in our country [applause] so that we will, God willing, realize the ambitious national goals which we are seeking in order to build an Oman of the future, God willing. [applause]

It is true that we have placed our country on the road of construction and progress in order to build a modern state, yet this should not be at the expense of the teachings of our righteous religion or the traditions and heritage of which we are proud just as much as we are proud of ourselves. [applause]

Egypt's Hilmi Attends National Day Ceremonies

GF170810 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of higher education and scientific research, arrived in the country this morning. He will represent His Excellency Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in attending the ceremonies of the 14th anniversary the Sultanate's glorious national day.

Foreign Minister Departs for GCC Session

GF200851 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah and the accompanying delegation today left for fraternal Kuwait to attend the 13th GCC ministerial session, which opens today. This session is designed to prepare the groundwork for the fifth summit of the member countries.

In a statement to the radio correspondent and to journalists, he said that the ministerial council will set the groundwork for the conference of the GCC leaders. The agenda includes recommendations submitted by the meeting of ministers in charge of the various technical committees. The council will also discuss views designed to develop what had been agreed upon by the member countries. He added: The leaders will discuss in their fifth summit numerous issues, among which are the current Arab and international issues. He asserted that the next summit of the GCC leaders will undertake the resolutions designed to ensure the progress and prosperity of the member countries.

Answering a question on the Sultanate's welcome of the restoration of relations between Jordan and Egypt, he said: The step undertaken by His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan with regard to restoration of relations with sisterly Egypt has been directly or indirectly welcomed by all the GCC countries.

The delegation accompanying him includes 'Awad ibn Badr al-Shanfari, head of Arab affairs at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and a number of senior officials in the ministry. 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad al-Khalusi, the Sultanate's ambassador accredited to Kuwait, will join the delegation.

The minister of state for foreign affairs and the accompanying delegation were seen off at the airport by 'Ali ibn 'Abdallah al-Musafir, head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in the Sultanate.

QATAR

Foreign Minister on Mideast Crisis, Gulf War

GF181242 Doha QNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Doha, 18 Nov (QNA) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, stated that the ideal solution for the Middle East crisis is one which comprises a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories which were occupied in 1967 and the affirmation of the legal rights of the Arab Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their land under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

In an interview with the Saudi daily *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* published today, he said that Qatar is looking for every means that will contribute to finding a solution to the Middle East problem and pointed out his country's support for the Arab plan affirmed by the Fes summit which sets a just basis for a comprehensive solution of the crisis.

Regarding the difficult circumstances through which the PLO is passing, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani called on all Palestinian factions to unite their words and ranks in order to decide the next step in Palestinian work. He warned that the Israeli enemy is exploiting the opportunity of divisions among the factions of the Palestinian revolution to achieve more gains in the occupied territories and to expand the occupation of Arab territories. He said that there is still hope that the Palestinian brothers will be able to agree and confront all the Israeli plots aimed at tearing apart their unity and allowing Israel to impose the fact of their occupation of Arab territories.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs waid that the victor in this war will still be defeated considering the financial and human capabilities that it will have lost during the war.

Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani affirmed that the GCC members will continue to work collectively or individually to put an end to the Iranian-Iraqi war. He said that the GCC countries are looking forward to the day when the war between the two countries comes to an end, especially since Iraq has accepted all peace initiatives. He called on Iran to accept these initiatives, because this favors the two countries and the region's peoples. He said this war exhausts the resources and energies of the two Muslim countries and poses a threat to the Gulf region in general.

Regarding the Arab situation, the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs reiterated his country's call for brushing aside Arab differences and for uniting the ranks for common action and for confronting the challenges which face the Arab nation in the current stage. He said that the Arab League is still playing its role in consolidating cooperation and coordination among the Arab countries. He expressed hope that the Arab countries will be able to overcome their differences and reach a minimum level of solidarity that will lead to an Arab conference for studying the rapid developments which require further consultation and coordination.

SAUDI ARABIA

Italy's Craxi, Andreotti Arrive on Visit

Andreotti Previews Talks

GF191144 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0605 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Al-Dammam, 19 Nov (WAKH) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has regretted the current stalemate in the crisis between the Arab world and Israel. He has expressed his satisfaction with the emergence of new developments in the Middle East which may have useful results if encouraged in the proper way.

In a statement to the Saudi newspaper *AL-YAWM* published today, he asserted Italy's determination to ameliorate its relationship with the GCC members within the framework of similar agreements which the European group has signed with other regional organizations. He said that it will be very useful to discuss these expectations in meetings between the EEC and the GCC in the near future. He added that Saudi-Italian relations are good and that the Saudi officials tackle all issues in such a sagacious way that enables them to maintain a moderate position for which they are well-known.

He pointed out that the Italian prime minister will discuss bilateral relations and means of enlivening them during his brief visit to the Kingdom. He added that issues of common interest and the situation in the Gulf will be discussed. He said that his country's relations with Saudi Arabia are distinguished. He termed them as being ideal. He also lauded the positions of Saudi Arabia toward world issues.

Begin 3-Day Visit

AU191952 Rome ANSA in English 1935 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text](ANSA) Riyadh, November 19 — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived here from Cairo today for an official three-day visit. The main purpose of the visit, as the one in Egypt, is to determine what Europe can do to get the Mideast negotiating process under way again. Shortly after their arrival, Craxi and Andreotti met with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd for a wide-ranging talk on the major recent events in the region. Craxi said later that Saudi diplomacy seems inspired by moderation, prudence and wisdom and added that, in his view, it is an esential reference point in the search for a just and lasting negotiated solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Before leaving Cairo, Craxi held an impromptu press conference where he outlined his point of view. Craxi said a peaceful process can be resumed if there is a dialogue between the parties involved. The most important and urgent issue is to define the interlocutors and their willingness for dialogue. Craxi added that political pressure must be made in this direction both by encouraging definition of a position, first Palestinian and then Jordanian, which is clearly outlined for the purposes of negotiations, as well as by sounding the policy inclinations of the Israeli coalition government.Only then, according to Craxi, can Europe move without the risk of failing. Craxi put the emphasis on the PLO National Council that will take place on November 22 in Amman, but added that he has already invited Israeli Premier Shim'on Perez to Rome and plans to meet PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat when he visits Tunis in early December. Beyond the more general Arab-Israeli conflict, the Italian Govvernment is equally concerned over any move that could destabilize the Mediterranean region. Craxi pointed this out and made a reference to information he received from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on planned Libyan terrorist actions.

Before arriving in Saudi Arabia, Craxi and Andreotti made a brief visit to Sharm el Sheik [spelling as received] in the Sinai where Italian forces are posted as part of the multinational peacekeeping force in the peninsula.

Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' Departs Riyadh

LD191419 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1335 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Nov (SPA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon left Riyadh after a brief visit to the Kingdom during which he was received by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Thanyan.

Nigerian Head of State Leaves 17 Nov

LD171525 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 17 Nov (SPA) — President Major General Muhammadu Buhari, Nigerian head of state and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, left Riyadh at 1630 today.

'UKAZ Urges 'More Effective' U.S. Mideast Plan

PM151025 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 9 Nov 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Peace in the Region and the New U.S. Realities"]

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd's cable to U.S. President Ronald Reagan congratulating him on his reelection emphasized that many peace-loving people in the world look forward to a U.S. role in establishing justice and consolidating world security and stability.

Linking justice to the concept of peace is very important for a settlement in the Middle East. In fact, justice must be the main basis of any settlement or solution in the region, otherwise the consequences will not be acceptable and there will be no guarantee that peace will last. The Kingdom believes that there can be no peace in the region if the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are ignored or if Arab and Islamic rights in Jerusalem are overlooked. Only a just peace can ensure lasting security and stability in the region.

The peace efforts were at a standstill over the past 3 months because the U.S. Administration was busy with the election and because the new Israeli cabinet was being formed following its recent election. The situation is now ripe for a new, practical, and more effective move to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. With President Reagan in office for a second term, any U.S. move in this connection must be based on the following facts:

1. From now on President Reagan will have no election worries because, under the U.S. Constitution, he cannot run for a third term of office. More than ever before, he is now in a position to act in accordance with his own convictions and views on various issues, especially the issue of peace in our region.

2. President Reagan does not owe his recent victory to Jewish votes. The major part of the Jewish vote went to Mondale because of his golden promises during the election campaign.

3. The U.S. Administration does not need to hold further consultations to know the views of the region's leaders regarding the basic principles of a just peace in the region. This means that there is no need to waste any more time before taking positive steps to promote peace and security in our region.

4. U.S. credibility has recently suffered severe setbacks. U.S. policy has shown signs of hesitation and confusion. The United States may now be eager to improve that image, reaffirm its role as a superpower pursuing a balanced and moderate policy, and erase the picture it painted of itself as an ally of the Zionist aggressors. There can be no doubt that the United States now has a golden opportunity to reassert its credibility and reaffirm the vital and balanced U.S. role, because it can now make political decisions freely and on the basis of conviction, without any election considerations or aspirations for a third term.

5. The final fact which should not be overlooked is that any decision or step taken by the U.S. Administration at this stage will determine the verdict to be passed not only regarding the standard of the U.S. Administration but also general U.S. policy, and that may well be the final judgment as to U.S. credibility, the fate of U.S.-Arab relations, and the U.S. role in the region in general.

UAE

Reportage on Visit of British Trade Minister

Meets With Finance Minister

GF171050 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Hamdan ibn Rashid, minister of finance and industry, received in his office today Paul Channon, British trade minister, and the delegation accompanying him on a visit to the UAE. During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of furthering and strengthening economic and trade relations between the UAE and Great Britain, particularly in the industrial sector, and the mutual benefit from the means available to the two countries in this field. WAM reports that the two sides also discussed the extent of the contribution by British companies working in the UAE in improving the country in all fields. Hamdan ibn Rashid praised the efforts the British companies and establishments have made and their effective contribution in improving the economic sector and social services.

Received by Deputy Premier

GF182000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 18 Nov (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, UAE deputy prime minister, met this evening with British Trade Minister Paul Channon and the accompanying delegation currently visiting the UAE. During the meeting they discussed commercial relations between the two countries and means of promoting them, including the possibility of establishing new ties in economic and commercial cooperation such as new joint projects, and the activation of the relations among the institutions, businessmen, and the chambers of commerce in the two countries.

Concludes Visit, Departs

GF191718 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Nov (WAKH) — British Minister of State for Trade Paul Channon left for home today after a visit of several days to the UAE as part of a Gulf tour. In a statement before departure, the minister said that he achieved good results during his talks here adding that his country was ready to transfer technology in all economic and commercial fields. He expressed hope that cooperation between the two countries would increase for the benefit of the two peoples and stressed the importance of joint coordination between the EEC and the GCC.

Editorial Views Uncertainty of PNC Attendance

GF201149 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 20 Nov 84 p 6

[Editorial: "PNC Crisis"]

[Text] With only two days left for the scheduled meeting of the PNC, there is still no indication as to who, apart from Fatah, the Palestinian Communist Party, some small groups and independents, will attend the Amman meeting, indeed whether it will be possible to convene it at all. Fatah spokesmen have claimed that the necessary quorum of 254 members (of a total of 384) will be secured and the meeting will go ahead. The number two man in Fatah, Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), has gone so far as to say that if there is no quorum, his group will leave the PLO and reorganise itself. His statement seems to indicate that Fatah fears a deliberate attempt to obstruct a quorum and thus frustrate the meeting. However, the matter goes beyond the mere mustering of quorums.

The important thing is whether a PNC meeting in Amman will improve chances of Palestinian unity or only serve to aggravate the present rift. It can be argued that the divisions are already so deep and fundamental that whether a meeting is held or not or where it is held will no longer make any difference. However, Fatah, on its part, has not been able to convince everyone of why a meeting is so urgently needed and at all costs. We would like to hope that at least the positions of Fatah and the PFLP and DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] still are not totally irreconcilable (as against the position of the Fatah dissidents): The three were after all talking amongst themselves as recently as earlier this month. Is another attempt possible in the next day or two to bring the three together? If it is, it might be worthwhile to put off the PNC for a few days, however unreasonable the attitude of some of the groups opposing the session in Amman may seem to be. Anything that formalises the present divisions will have only the most grievous repercussions for Palestinian unity, which is needed more than ever before when, with the U.S. presidential elections over, various peace moves may surface again in the Middle East.

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Chairman Congratulates Oman on National Day

GF191720 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text of congratulatory cable sent by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id on the occasion of the latter's national day — date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of your country's national day, it pleases me to send you fraternal greetings with good wishes of permanent health and happiness for you and welfare and progress for your people.

Further on Attempted Al-Bakkush Assassination

Al-Bakkush, Rushdi News Conference

NC171942 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1927 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Halim al-Bakkush attended a news conference held by Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi at the Interior Ministry tonight. The conference was attended by foreign correspondents. Al-Bakkush had returned to Cairo from Aswan today.

Speaking at the news conference, Al-Bakkush thanked God that the [assassination] operation ended the way it did. He expressed his gratitude to President Husni Mubarak for taking care of him. He also expressed his gratitude to the hospitable Egyptian people, to the Egyptian interior minister, and to the Egyptian security organs saying: I have absolute confidence in these organs following this operation.

'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush addressed the Libyan people during the news conference saying that he never thought his life would be the price of the Libyan people's freedom, which is much more precious.

Al-Bakkush added: The attempted assassination might perhaps confirm again that we are not just struggling to end Al-Qadhdhafi's regime in our country, but to also prove again that this is a weird, odd, and criminal person. This incident, and the plans to carry out assassinations in states other than Egypt, have made it clear to the world that Al-Qadhdhafi has lost confidence in himself as a responsible person and head of state, and that his behavior is like that of an international criminal. I urge all responsible governments to adopt a serious stand. It is high time to confront this danger.

Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi opened the news conference saying: The main purpose of today's meeting is to shed light upon and reveal the facts about what Tripoli radio broadcast and what was quoted by the various news agencies concerning the success of Libyan terrorism within the context of its plan to physically liquidate its opponents and spread terrorism throughout the world by assassinating people like former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush.

Major General Ahmad Rushdi said: I want first to emphasize that our approach to terrorist plans in general, and the Libyan plan in particular, went beyond just precautionary measures taken to monitor the implementation of this plan. Our action went as far as the early discovery of the dimensions of this plan in its various perparatory stages and at its various centers of activity abroad.

Maj Gen Rushdi added: I wish to state on this occasion that Egypt was the first state since 1976 to suffer from Libyan terrorism activity. Egypt was the scene of many terrorist operations by the Libyan regime directed against innocent Egyptians and their property, including the attempt to blow up the Al-Tahrir complex in Cairo and the Alexandria train, in addition to many other attempts which have been foiled.

Regarding the attempt to assassinate Al-Bakkush, the interior minister said: The information we received from various sides indicated that the Libyan regime was about to order its agents to assassinate 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush. We dealt with this information, put it in its correct perspective, and used it in a well thought out plan.

Ahmad Rushdi went on: On 19 October, the Libyan regime ordered a member of the terrorist group assigned the task of assassinating Al-Bakkush to survey the situation and determine the plan of action. The Egyptian security organs observed the movements of this agent from his arrival in the country. The second member of the terrorist group arrived [in Egypt] on 23 October. He is the owner of a restaurant and import-export company in Malta. The third member of the group arrived on 30 October and the fourth member arrived on 9 November.

Maj Gen Rushdi pointed out that all members of the terrorist group are foreigners, none of them Egyptian.

The minister explained that the Egyptian security organ's plan was based on the idea that these members would arrive successfully in Egypt and that their movements inside the country would be fully observed. The interior minister explained that the perfect plan to deal with this attempt provided, in one of its aspects, for the arrest of all members of the group together, by permitting them to arrive successfully in the country and then apprehending them at the appropriate time before the assassination attempt.

Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi said an objective of the plan was to obtain more details and information about Libyan terrorist activities in view of the fact that these activities were being repulsed within the framework of a general plan that would go beyond such an operation. Ahmad Rushdi said this terrorist group has admitted that it was recruited by Libyan intelligence with the knowledge of the head of the Libyan Popular Bureau in Malta 'Ali Najim, who had given them the task of assassinating Al-Bakkush in return for $250,000.

The interior minister explained that the members of the terrorist group contacted Libyan intelligence officers in Tripoli and Malta by telephone from Cairo to brief them on developments. The telephone numbers they contacted were Tripoli 49909, Tripoli 49910, and Tripoli 49912. Furthermore, the leader of the terrorist group also contacted Ahmad al-Tumi, a Libyan intelligence officer, on 7 November on Tripoli 310702. The leader of the group also contacted a member of the Libyan intelligence in Malta on number 3362 and called London 661335. In all, 16 telephone calls were made; the interior minister explained that he has all the receipts.

The interior minister also said that during the implementation of its plan, this group contacted a number of Egyptians for the purpose of achieving their participation in the assassination operation. This contact was also observed by the Egyptian security organs.

The interior minister said that the leader of the terrorist group had, with the concurrence of some Egyptians whom he believed were cooperating with him, facilitated the assassination operation in return for $150,000, and that he had given these individuals part of this sum as advance payment, with the remaining amount to be paid after the implementation of the operation. Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi pointed out that the sum given to the Egyptian individuals is part of the evidence in this case.

Maj Gen Rushdi said that the terrorist group had been deluded into believing that the assassination operation was successfully carried out. The group's leader sent a hand written letter in English to one of his aides in Malta, the link with Libyan intelligence, advising him of the success of the operation and requesting him to send the sum of $90,000.

This agent, who has Maltese citizenship and resides in Malta, wrote another letter himself saying that he received the letter from the terrorist group in Cairo and pictures indicating the assassination of Al-Bakkush and the success of the operation. He confirmed in this letter that the remaining sum of money, which had been demanded, would be sent.

Maj Gen Rushdi presented a copy of [passage indistinct]. Rushdi said that he has a copy of the letter which was sent from here advising the success of the operation. The letter is dated 2 November 1984, he added, and there is an Arabic translation of this letter. He also said that there is a copy of the letter handed over to the agent in Malta together with the aforesaid letter telling him to take the letter [words indistinct] to the Libyan Embassy in Malta.

Maj Gen Rushdi continued: Our representative who went to Malta successfully carried out all that he was assigned to do. The Libyan ambassador in Malta immediately went to the island of Crete where the Libyan president was at that time. The ambassador went there immediately after receiving the letter and told the Libyan leader that the operation was very successful. The Libyan leader ordered the ambassador to send any sum of money those who carried out the operation may demand.

Rushdi then said: Ahmad al-Tumi, the official in charge of Libyan intelligence in Libya, contacted the leader of the terrorist operation in Cairo, and told him that the Libyan leader was pleased and that all the money demanded would be sent. This contact took place on 15 November. Libyan involvement then followed. Tripoli radio announced the assassination of Al-Bakkush. This is refuted by the fact that Al-Bakkush is here. [Passage indistinct]

Maj Gen Rushdi then said: We have learned that Al-Qadhdhafi went to Malta following the announcement that his attempt had failed, perhaps to punish his intelligence men.

The interior minister affirmed that the security organs in Egypt are carrying out their duties very seriously and that they are determined to confront all such attempts. The interior minister reassured Libyans living in Egypt that all the security organs are watchful to ensure their security and safety.

Maj Gen Rushdi then showed the foreign correspondents photographs taken by Egyptian security experts in the deception. One of these photographs shows Al-Bakkush in the hands of members of the terrorist group, one of whom is carrying a rifle. Another photograph shows a member of the group firing shots at Al-Bakkush's forehead. Rushdi said that these photographs made Al-Qadhdhafi believe that Al-Bakkush was assassinated and hence broadcast the news over Tripoli radio.

The interior minister said that preparations are being made to produce a documentary film showing the Egyptian security men's maneuvers in the Al-Bakkush assassination operation from the arrival of the first terrorist group on 17 October up to the end of the operation.

Concluding his news conference, Maj Rushdi said: On this occasion, I am happy to address all the great people of Egypt who have not been tempted by Al-Qadhdhafi's money to participate in operations against the security and stability of their country. I must also address a greeting of admiration to the Egyptian security organ which has been successful, to a large extent, in unveiling and foiling this operation. The security organ did not stop here, but discovered other Libyan terrorists in states other than Egypt. This was one of the reasons for delaying this conference, to notify the security organs in these states about the dimensions of this activity and give the names of the terorists so that they may do whatever is necessary.

The interior minister also thanked the foreign correspondents.

Rushdi MAYU Interview

NC190625 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA) -- Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi has made a statement to the weekly newspaper *MAYU*, which will appear in Monday's edition, about the abortive assassination that a terrorist group sent by Libyan Colonel al-Qadhdhafi tried to perpetrate. Rushdi said that Al-Bakkush was not the only one slated to be assassinated; that maps and photographs were seized that define the locations of other Libyans to be killed, including Mustafa Barki, chairman of the Libyan League in Egypt, who was to have been the second victim.

The terrorist group had gathered information about Barki. Some of the accused confessed that the terrorist Libyan regime also planned to assassinate Egyptian leaders and to plant explosives in certain vital installations. Rushdi said that the confessions of the group's leader included the fact that among its most important objectives was an attempt to gather information about the F-16 aircraft and examine the possibility of hijacking one and taking it to Libya.

Rushdi said: We took into consideration the possibility that the arrival of this terrorist group was a maneuver by the Libyan terrorist regime prior to staging other operations elsewhere.

Rushdi pointed out that Anthony Gile, the leader of the terrorist group, has been a figure in international terrorism for 12 years, noting that he has carried out terrorist operations in Britain and that he has other terrorist groups working in several Arab and European countries. Minister Rushdi said that Gile confessed that he had staged various operations, including the assassination of a Libyan in Paris, using a rifle with telescopic sights. He also confessed that he met with Col al-Qadhdhafi many times and with international terrorist Carlos more than once in Qasr al-Madinah in Tripoli.

Rushdi said that Gile promised the Egyptians who he thought were working with him — in fact, they were policemen — that they would meet Carlos following the assassination of Al-Bakkush. He asked them to gather information about Libyan opposition in Egypt and get new photographs of each opposition member, as well as to report on their detailed movements.

Rushdi said that the group leader's confessed that he would seek to establish an investment company in Egypt to cover up the assassination operation planned by the Libyan terrorist regime, and that he would ensure the company's communication with Libya by using a special code. Rushdi said that the terrorist group leader had asked those cooperating with him about the possibility of carrying out terrorist actions and liquidating Libyans who oppose Al-Qadhdhafi in some Arab countries.

The interior minister added that Gile also confessed that he intended to leave Egypt immediately after the assassination of Al-Bakkush. He gave his presumed collaborators the sum of $10,000 as a first installment, to be followed by $14,000 after Al-Bakkush was killed and the media had reported that fact.

Rushdi pointed out that Gile had asked his aides to aim at Al-Bakkush's head, as he would probably be wearing a flak vest. It was intended, immediately after the success of the operation, to create an atmosphere of suspicion against Soviet and U.S. agents, dispelling any suspicion of the Libyan regime's complicity. However, the Libyan regime seized the opportunity to announce the success of the operation, to frighten all of its opponents.

Ahmad Rushdi said the group's leader admitted that he regularly visited Libya without an entry visa; hence his passport was not stamped so as not to create any suspicion. He also admitted that he had smuggled a cousin of Al-Qadhdhafi, Muhammad Shalabi, from Britain last year in a special plane as he was accused in a drug case. The interior minister said Gile had abducted Al-Qadhdhafi's cousin in cooperation with three Britons: Jod Freshinue, who was arrested in the Al-Bakkush assassination attempt; William Childs, a private pilot; and Kan Hally, director of an aircraft spare parts company.

Rushdi added that Gile confessed that the Libyan intelligence service had asked him to contact some Libyan opponents of Al-Qadhdhafi in London to induce them to return to Libya. Should they refuse, he was to warn them that they would be abducted, put on a special plane from London, and forcibly returned to Libya. Gile specified the addresses of these Libyans living in London.

Rushdi said Gile confessed that while in Tripoli at the beginning of this year he became acquainted with a Pakistani, Muhammad 'Abbas, from whom he learned that Col al-Qadhdhafi was financing a secret Pakistani organization to overthrow the regime in Pakistan in the next 8 months, and that the late President Zulfiqar 'Ali Bhutto's son, who is presently a political refugee in Libya, would take over power following the success of the operation.

Rushdi said that the Pakistani, Muhammad 'Abbas, has contacts with Arthur Scargill, chairman of the National Union of Miners in London, who headed a delegation to meet Al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli where he was given suitable financing to support the movement opposing the present regime in Britian. It is known that the British miners are still on strike.

Rushdi said this affair has been recorded on audio and video from beginning to the end. He said that a complete film of this operation was prepared to serve as an important document and material in training security officials against terrorism. He also confirmed that all recordings and contacts took place with the permission of the state security attorney general and that all developments were presented to him as they occurred.

Rushdi concluded his interview with *MAYU* by saying: We are well aware of the Libyan regime's terrorist method. We are watching with alertness and caution all actions resulting from the failure of this operation, which has exposed the regime before the world.

Libyan Front Denounces Al-Qadhdhafi

NC191548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA) — The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has called on the international community to adopt a firm stand toward the criminal plots of Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In a statement issued here today, the Front denounced Col al-Qadhdhafi's plots against Libyans abroad. It stressed that these plots are not new and called on those still dealing with the colonel to (?stop) following the crime perpetrated against former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush [words indistinct] by Egyptian security last week.

The Front's statement lauded what it called the firm and courageous stand adopted by Egypt in giving shelter and protection to Libyans seeking refuge.

Suspect Receives Payoff Money

NC191715 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA) — Briton Anthony William Gile, one of the terrorists who attempted to assassinate former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush, has received a sum of money transferred to him from Libya through a Maltese bank. The sum was received from the Credit and Commerce Bank in Cairo. Arab and foreign journalists went to the bank to cover the event.

Egyptian authorities then received the sum from the defendant to preserve it as evidence in the investigations. This afternoon the British defendant went to the bank under a strong guard to receive the sum transferred from Libya in return for his participation in the operation to assassinate Al-Bakkush.

Suspects Ordered Detained Indefinitely

NC191745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA) — The supreme state security prosecution, under Attorney General Counselor Raja'i al-'Arabi, today continued its investigation of the four defendants accused of attempting to assassinate former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush. The prosecution ordered the indefinite detention of the defendants, pending the completion of investigations. The prosecution also sealed the case containing the weapons and other incriminating evidence which substantiate the contacts made between this group and the Libyan authorities.

Al-Bakkush on Al-Qadhdhafi Regime

NC191733 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA) — Former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush has said that he is against the regime of Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He said he is for the saving Libya from the grip of a terrorist who has lost the legitimacy, dignity, and qualifications of a ruler. In an interview with London radio, broadcast today, Al-Bakkush added: Al-Qadhdhafi is enslaving my people and my country, and is oppressing them in all sorts of ways. He is also practicing terrorism and deviation; he is squandering Libyan funds on criminal activities around the world.

Al-Bakkush pointed out that the assassination attempt caused him misery and sadness, noting the level to which the Arab nation has fallen. He also said that what Al-Qadhdhafi has done will not make him abandon his struggle and his duty to liberate his homeland, to rid it of Al-Qadhdhafi's regime.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Condemns 'Suicide Squads'

NC180725 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 18 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the statement transmitted by the Libyan news agency and broadcast over Tripoli radio on the instruction of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, concerning the execution of former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush by the so-called revolutionary suicidal squads, the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* points out that this statement has raised anew the issue of transforming physical liquidation into an official policy of some states whose leaders shamelessly boast about it in their statements and speeches.

Continuing, the newspaper says that when killing becomes an official policy and when suicide squads are formed and exported to other countries, this means that there is a serious imbalance in the government organ of that country in terms of its authority and its visualization of the international norms of conduct and other international charters pertaining to basic human rights.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that the Libyan regime's export of assassination squads to commit crimes in other states, as has happened in Greece, Italy, and Britain, constitutes flagrant aggression against the basic rights of sovereign countries, and is a violation of international norms of conduct and international laws, which regulate relations among various countries. The Libyan regime's designs have gravely harmed the reputation of the Arabs.

Press on Al-Qadhdhafi's 'Dreams'

NC190755 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 19 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On Al-Qadhdhafi's terrorist dreams, the newspaper *AL-AHRAM* says that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has wasted his effort and his people's wealth and resources for the sake of carrying out terrorist designs and assassination attempts, a matter completely rejected by both logic and reason. The paper points out that the assassination attempt, which Al-Qadhdhafi planned, and which he thought would be successfully carried out on the life of former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush, has exposed many points that must be made clear.

These points have first and foremost exposed the mentality of this man who rules Libya and wastes millions in harboring international terrorists. He is also wasting other millions as payments to international terrorist organizations for the sake of attaining his dreams, namely to become the emperer of a terrorist state. The facts have also confirmed that Al-Qadhdhafi is a megalomaniac who dreams of ruling the world through terrorist plans.

The paper, in conclusion, says that the Egyptian security organs should be congratulated; they have demonstrated an unprecedented efficiency that ranks them among the world's top security organs. This demonstrates to the Egyptian people that their security organs are efficient enough to protect them. By exposing the plan to assassinate the former Libyan prime minister, the security organs have proven to the Libyan regime that its designs to achieve its terrorist dreams are doomed.

The paper expresses the hope that the Libyan people will wake up from their slumber and rid themselves of this mentality unprecedented in history in terms of madness and excessiveness.

On the same subject, the newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* questions the attitude of the Arab brothers now that it has become very evident that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been himself contacting international terrorist networks for the sake of assassinating Arab, Islamic, European, and U.S. leaders. The paper points out that Egypt has for many years warned that Al-Qadhdhafi is an abnormal person who has the same mentality as that of a bloodthirsty criminal, not of a responsible leader. But, *AL-AKHBAR* adds, some Arab brothers kept believing that Al-Qadhdhafi's terrorism is something that could be lived with. But the Egyptian security organs exposed Al-Qadhdhafi when his plot to assassinate former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush was unveiled. The Egyptian security organs managed to seize documents from the terrorist group which indicate that Al-Qadhdhafi is plotting to assassinate many Arab, Islamic, and European leaders, foremost being King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Italy's Craxi Comments on Results of Talks

NC191504 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi held a press conference this morning in which he commented on the talks he held with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, and some ministers. He said that the talks dealt with the issues of Middle East peace, Red Sea security, and the problems of some African countries. He said that he stressed to the president Egypt's indispensible and important role in this region, the need to give an impetus to the peace process in the region, and the need to activate the process of peaceful negotiations. He added that the aim is to consolidate peace, but not to ignore the Palestinian people's rights.

He said that the Egyptian side praised the European initiative, particularly the Venice declaration. He added that President Husni Mubarak called on Italy, in its capacity as chairman of the European Community during the next session, to encourage any new European initiative.

Regarding the revival of the Venice declaration, the Italian prime minister said: During the meetings held recently, we tried to ascertain the readiness of European governments and to see what can be done to revive the Middle East peace process.

He said that his talks with West German Chancellor Kohl and French President Mitterrand on the Middle East question emphasized their prominent position. He added that President Mubarak explained and analyzed a number of ideas on policies in the region. President Mubarak stressed Egypt's interest in strengthening and developing relations with Italy.

Regarding the European Community's role during the coming session, he expressed his belief that the success of the peace process depends on the concerned parties holding a dialogue.

The Italian prime minister said that the talks also dealt with bilateral economic relations and with expanding the bilateral volume of trade. Discussions also dealt with a number of projects of interest to Italian industry in the energy, atomic, electric, communications and telecommunications, agricultural, and defense fields. The idea of setting up joint Italian-Egyptian projects in other Third World countries was also discussed.

Talks With Tanzanian Defense Minister Reported

NC191304 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA) — Military talks were held at Army Headquarters this morning between the Egyptian and Tanzanian sides. The Egyptian side to the talks was headed by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, while the Tanzanian side was headed by Defense Minister Brigadier [General] Muhiddin Kimario.

In a statement following the 1-hour talks, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the two sides discussed all aspects of military cooperation between the two countries, and reviewed the programs concerning the training of Tanzanians in Egyptian military colleges and insitutions.

The defense minister added that the two sides also discussed ways of promoting cooperation between the two countries in the field of armaments. It has been decided to form joint military committees to study Tanzania's need for Egyptian arms.

The Tanzanian defense minister arrived in Cairo yesterday heading a military delegation on a 6-day official visit to Egypt.

Paris Mayor, Delegation Arrive in Cairo

NC191800 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1734 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA) — Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac and his delegation arrived in Cairo this evening on a 3-day visit to Cairo in response to an invitation from Cairo Governor Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib. Chirac will meet with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, and Local Government Minister Hasan Abu Basha to discuss the strengthening of Egyptian-French relations in all spheres. Chirac will also visit tourist and archeological sites in Cairo and Luxor.

Upon his arrival, Chirac said he is visiting Cairo for the first time and is very happy to visit the Egyptian capital which is regarded as one of the most ancient cities of the world. Chirac said his meeting with Egyptian officials will contribute to highlight Egypt's role in the Middle East. He said his talks will naturally deal with bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them.

Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib then spoke. He welcomed Chirac and wished him a pleasant stay in Egypt. Upon his arrival, Chirac was also received by French Ambassador in Cairo Philippe Cuvillier.

Ghali Says OAU Summit Achieved Many Objectives

NC181610 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, this afternoon returned to Cairo from Addis Ababa after attending with the Egyptian delegation the 20th African summit conference. Dr Ghali said on arrival that he had talks with African leaders on promoting bilateral relations between Egypt and African states.

He said that the conference achieved many objectives, foremost of which was drawing up a new strategy to confront the economic crisis which some African countries face. Dr Ghali added that Egypt presented a proposal for setting up a special African development fund and for convening a ministerial conference. It was agreed to hold the conference in the next few months to discuss all the issues facing the continent.

'Abd al-Majid Interviewed on PNC Meeting

NC171015 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0932 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Nov (MENA) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stated that Egypt wishes the PNC success now that the PLO has settled the situation by delineating the date and venue of the PNC meeting. In a statement to the Saudi newspaper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, published today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said there is no doubt that world attention will be focused on 22 November [date set for the PNC meeting]. He said: We hope that a Palestinian reunion will take place, that the Palestinian house will be reorganized, and that the Palestinian issue will regain its position among the states that champion Palestinian rights.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added: We also hope that the Palestinian leadership will (?play) its role despite the hurdles that some states are placing in its path.

In another development, the same paper publishes a statement by PNC member Sa'id Kamal following his meeting yesterday with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub in which he said that there is a determination to convene the PNC as scheduled and that the PLO wants Egyptian support for the Palestinian legitimacy represented in PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and for a free Palestinian will. Sa'id Kamal said that he briefed Dr al-Mahjub on the situation of the PNC and on the challenges facing it — challenges represented in the campaigns of intimidation and threats launched by [Palestinian] dissidents to abort the PNC meeting.

The paper reports that the PLO has invited 146 Egyptian personalities to attend the meeting, including members of the People's Assembly, representatives of the four Egyptian parties, some trade union figures, and a number of journalists.

Helicopter Gunships Attack Iranian Boats

JN191752 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Communique No 1,655 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 November 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The zealous sons of Iraq are continuing their heroic confrontation of the forces of evil and ignorance in Iran in support of Iraqi rights. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our artillery pounded selected enemy targets east of Basra, scoring effective, accurate hits and inflicting losses in men and equipment. Our forces' firepower created huge fires in enemy positions, where columns of smoke were seen rising.

Elsewhere in the same sector, one of our units killed four enemy soldiers and destroyed one infantry position and one heavy machine gun.

2. A formation of our Army helicopter gunships attacked three enemy boats in the Maysan sector at 1425 today. Each boat carried one medium machine gun and a group of enemy soldiers. Our helicopters destroyed the enemy boats and killed their occupants. Our helicopters returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

3. Using artillery and other weapons, one of our forward units pounded enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles in the central sector, killing two and inflicting losses in supplies and equipment.

4. One of our forward units opened fire on a number of enemy vehicles opposite our positions in the Maysan sector. Three of the vehicles were hit and the others fled.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 November 1984

UK's Richard Luce, Delegation Arrive 20 Nov

JN200722 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA) — Richard Luce, minister of state at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, arrived here at dawn today at the head of a delegation on a 3-day visit to Iraq. He will hold talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and some international issues.

The delegation was received by Taha Yasin 'Ali, Foreign Ministry under secretary and head of the first international department at the ministry, and the British ambassador in Baghdad.

'Oil Sources' on Iranian Loading Conditions

JN201141 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Vienna, 20 Nov (INA) — Informed oil sources revealed in Vienna today that tankers and ships are loaded with oil from Iranian ports, particularly Khark Island, at night and under very low lights for fear of Iraqi attacks.

These sources cited world shipping companies as saying that Iran has asked carriers to use ships and tankers with large loading capabilities in order to be loaded with oil and quickly leave the military operations zone announced by Iraq before coming under Iraqi military attack.

In a statement to the INA correspondent here today, these sources said that some carriers have protested against the Iranian measures because the older ships and tankers have limited capabilities and the Iranian conditions apply only to modern ships, which are supplied with developed systems that enable them to be loaded quickly. However, there are few such ships.

On another level, these sources revealed that Iran has built a temporary basin in the Arab Gulf in order to repair its ships that are attacked by Iraq, in an attempt to conceal the losses inflicted on it by the Iraqi military siege of the Iranian exportation ports.

King Husayn Expected To Address PNC Session

JN161324 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT AL-SHA'B* has learned that all arrangements have been completed to hold the 17th PNC session in Amman next Thursday, 22 November 1984.

His Majesty King Husayn is expected to make an important speech at the opening session.

The PNC meetings will be held at the Palace of Culture.

The halls and facilities of the Amman Sports City will be at the disposal of the PNC.

Certain halls were prepared for reporters.

Five large Amman hotels have been prepared to receive the Palestinian delegations.

Delegation To Attend

JN200751 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-DUSTUR* — It has been learned that a high-ranking Jordanian delegation will attend the 17th PNC session that will open in Amman on Thursday. The delegation comprises several government and parliament officials.

Prince Hasan Returns From United Kingdom Visit

JN191626 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Amman — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned to Amman this evening after a working visit to the United Kingdom which lasted several days. He was received by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, and a number of senior officials.

Continued Reportage on Al-Naqurah Talks

Third Negotiating Session Ends

NC191514 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Dispatch from Antoine 'Awn, National Information Agency correspondent in Al-Naqurah — recorded]

[Text] The second round of the third session of negotiations was held at 1330 today. A Lebanese source declared that the atmosphere was positive. The Israelis asked the Lebanese delegation to explain how effective the Lebanese Army's deployment would be in strategic points in the south, particularly heights, bridges, ports, cities — the most important being Sidon and Jazzin — the Al-Baruk hills, and the main roads. The Israelis, according to the source, asked about the methods Lebanon will use to protect the Palestinian camps. He said there were some sensitive points for the other side which might not be important to the Lebanese side. The source said that the force proposed by Lebanon for deployment south of the Al-Awwali River is sufficient as far as Lebanon is concerned; the Israeli side does not think so.

The same source explained that Lebanon has insisted on reparations, maintaining that the figure is preliminary and the correct figure is much higher. The Lebanese delegation insisted that UNIFIL must have an effective role, pointing out that the Lebanese Army will not play the role of policeman. The delegation responded to Israeli questions on the details of the military plan.

The Israeli military spokesman said a short while ago that the talks focused on the role of the Lebanese Army and the possible deployment of the UN emergency forces and local forces in the area with the Army. He described the expected UNIFIL role as important.

The second round of the third session ended a short while ago. The official UNIFIL spokesman stated that Lebanon and Israel held their third session of talks under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss military matters pertaining to the Israeli withdrawal and arrangements for the withdrawal from the south, Rashayya, and western Al-Biqa'. The withdrawal issue was discussed. Some postive aspects have emerged during the talks.

Source Denies Talks Postponed

NC200838 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Excerpt] A source on the Lebanese negotiating delegation has denied an Israeli television report that the Lebanese-Israeli talks have been postponed from Wednesday to Thursday. The source said that the Lebanese delegation will go to Al-Naqurah tomorrow. He told the Voice of Lebanon that Independence Day falls on Thursday, and that it would therefore be unreasonable to seek a postponement of the session from Wednesday to Thursday.

Having set forth its plan for the Army's deployment yesterday, the Lebanese delegation hopes that the Israeli delegation will submit a plan for its withdrawal tomorrow, Lebanese would then define its stand in response to this. The source said that yesterday's negotiations were characterized by opposed positions. The Lebanese insist on an overall plan for the withdrawal, to be followed by security arrangements, while Israel stipulates that such arrangements must be made before the withdrawal. Moreover, Israel is thinking of a period of from 6 to 9 months for the withdrawal, ignoring the possibility that developments may take place in this time that might affect the decision to withdraw.

Hezbollah Leader Condemns Talks

NC200918 Beirut THE DAILY STAR in English 19 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, leader of Hezbollah, visited Ba'labakk Sunday, and participated in a rally held by the previously unheard of Islamic Resistance. The rally was held to commemorate the first anniversary of the Israeli bombing of the Janta area, the Internal Security Forces headquarters and the Al-Biqa'. "We should always work within two kinds of resistance," Fadlallah said, "one intellectual, the other military, because the enemy's war is based on aims and future planning."

Fadlallah went on to once again condemn the Al-Naqurah withdrawal talks, and the abrogated May 17th, 1983 withdrawal agreement.

UN's Aime Arrives

NC200920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Jean Claude Aime, assistant deputy UN secretary general, held talks today with Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general, on conditions in the south and on the status of the Lebanese-Israeli military talks being held in Al-Naqurah. Aime arrived in Beirut this morning and went directly to the Foreign Ministry, where he held a long meeting with Ambassador al-Turk.

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Security Situation

PM161529 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Nov 84 pp 19-21

[Interview with Speaker of Chamber of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni by Shirbil Zughayb in Beirut — date not given]

[Excerpt] *AL-HAWADITH*: It is said that you are the first speaker of the Chamber of Deputies to come to office on Syrian bayonets and that, had it not been for Syrian intervention at the highest levels, you would not have been able to obtain this parliamentary majority. What is your comment?

Al-Husayni: I do not know what the wisdom is behind the continued attempts to harm Lebanese-Syrian relations in this manner. For my part, I did not see any Syrian bayonets supporting my election as speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. If anyone saw these bayonets, I would be grateful if he would give evidence of it.

I repeat what I have always said — that Lebanon and Syria are twin countries; Syria is a strategic depth for Lebanon, and Syria has a role to play in times of adversity and prosperity. Likewise, Lebanon has a role to play in Syria in both cases. I see Lebanese-Syrian relations as very strong, brotherly relations. It is no secret that Lebanon is going through an ordeal for which the responsibility is Arab as well as Lebanese. We need Syria's support, its resources, and its potential to save Lebanon from its ordeal, and it is Syria's duty to give such support.

AL-HAWADITH: It is said that [Syrian Vice President] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam told you that Syria is on your side because you did not support the 17 May agreement. Is that the main reason why Syria supports you, or is it intended to cut other Shi'ite parties down to size?

Al-Husayni: Who said that 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said such a thing? It is no secret that Syria opposed the 17 May agreement, just as it is no secret that I opposed it. Syria has its own stand, which it not only conveys to me but also declares as a state. It has actually declared such a stand. We are now striving to remove the bad and destructive effects on Lebanon of the 17 May agreement.

AL-HAWADITH: It is said that those who voted for the agreement did so because they could see no alternative to it that would ensure the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Lebanon. They still believe that no alternative has yet been found. What is your view?

Al-Husayni: First of all, there was nothing that we can talk about as an agreement. The agreement amounted to separating Lebanon from its Arab environment and placing it under Israeli hegemony. The loopholes in this ill reputed agreement would have enabled Israel to continue occupying Lebanese territory. The agreement provided nothing to say that Israel would withdraw from our land. We must recall the time when the U.S. secretary of state came to the area. We thought that he was going to bring his country's pressure to bear on Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory in accordance with the Security Council resolutions since 1978, namely Resolutions 452, 426, 508, and 509. But unfortunately, because of the imminent U.S. presidential election and the U.S. President's need for Israeli support in the election, it transpired that Shultz' visit aimed to iron out Israeli-U.S. relations, which became somewhat strained during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Consequently, U.S. pressure was applied not to Israel, but to Lebanon, to sign this agreement. Thus this U.S. behavior harmed the U.S. role as a whole, because it is the only influential and effective role in Israel.

AL-HAWADITH: Certain political quarters, particularly the government, are hoping for a new and positive role in Lebanon following the U.S. presidential election. What can the United States offer Lebanon now that it has withdrawn?

Al-Husayni: The positive U.S. role they are talking about is what we are hoping for in the near future. It is hoped that the United States will play its role as the only party that has influence on Israel. If it can understand the reasons for its previous failure, then I believe that it can make Israel understand the need for rapid withdrawal from Lebanon, so that this country can overcome its 10-year ordeal.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you evaluate your personal relationship with U.S. policy?

Al-Husayni: I have no personal relationship with U.S. policy, but as a Lebanese I support U.S. policies that benefit Lebanon and oppose those which harm it. This was what I actually did during a 1-month U.S. visit last year.

AL-HAWADITH: What do you support, for example?

Al-Husayni: I would support the United States if it curbed Israel and made it desist from its expansionist ambitions.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Your Excellency optimistic in this regard?

Al-Husayni: Frankly, so far there are no signs to arouse optimism.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you support the Soviet Union's participation in any solution for Lebanon?

Al-Husayni: We all realize that there is a Soviet-U.S. conflict, and we all know that an attempt by either of the two countries to bring about a solution single-handed gives the other country the justification to impede such a solution and prevent its success. Naturally, we look forward hopefully to any international easing of tension, particularly since we cannot tolerate international conflict on our territory.

AL-HAWADITH: There are several active parties within the Shi'ite community, each of which could have its own views regarding the Lebanese situation. How will you seek to unify the Shi'ite view on all matters, given that you are described as a man of calm discussion?

Al-Husayni: The Shi'ite viewpoint is certainly one with regard to our commitment to the paper we referred to [as published]. With regard to methods, I would say that no human fingerprint is like another. The same can be said about the methods of the Shi'ite parties.

Given the situation in our country it is impermissible, after the sustained sufferings of the past 10 years, that we should resort to methods that would arouse sensitivities or to actions that lead to reactions. Our objective should be to save our country without provoking troubles and through genuine dialogue. We should realize that, when we sit at the negotiating table with the other parties, we should not think that we can impose all our views on them. On the contrary, we must enter into dialogue, try to reach solutions, and stop believing that one party or one community should ask concessions of the others. Rather, we should seek to ensure that all concessions are made in the interests of the country and of all Lebanese.

Walid Junblatt Departs Damascus for GDR

NC200617 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0[illegible]30 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] The Cabinet will hold its weekly meeting tomorrow. Minister Walid Junblatt went to Damascus, where he met with Syrian officials to discuss the progress made in implementing the security plan. He then left Damascus for the GDR, for a visit of several days. Prior to his departure, Junblatt met with former Minister Marwan Hamadah, who briefed him on the results of his meetings with political and military leaders on the security plans.

PSP Claims 'Direct Military Line' to USSR

NC200902 Beirut THE DAILY STAR in English 19 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] did not deny a report broadcast on Israel Radio Saturday that it had recently received new supplies of arms directly from Moscow, although a spokesman could not confirm it either. Israel radio said six new Soviet made T-55 tanks and other heavy weapons had been supplied directly to the PSP by the Soviet Union. It said the tanks had been spotted in the Iqlim al-Kharrub by Israelis patrols.

PSP spokesman Sa'id Dawi said Sunday the first he had heard of the new tanks was from a radio report. "But so what. What does it matter whether we have six tanks or 12?" he said.

Asked whether it was true the party had a direct military line to the Soviet Union, he said "Of course, we have had such a line with the Soviet Union for a long time."

Navy Seizes Turkish Ship From Shikka Port

NC191303 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] A military source has stated the following:

At noon today, a naval patrol belonging to the joint operations room seized a Turkish commercial ship owned by (Boyuk Bazaran). The ship, which was docked at Shikka Port, was forced to proceed to Beirut port.

A source in the joint operations room has indicated that air and naval patrols are continuing their activity and that Tripoli Port [in northern Lebanon] is still surrounded by sea to prevent the ship *Nana* from leaving the port before the case against it is settled by the courts.

Al-Asad Interviewed on French Television

JN181515 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1242 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 18 Nov (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has granted an interview to French Television Channel 1 in which he replies to questions from the following four journalists: Gilbert Denoyan, Paul-Marie de la Gorce, Dominique Bromberger, and (Pierre-Luc Sikion). The following is the text of the interview:

Question 1 by (Pierre-Luc Sikion): Mr President, exactly 8 days from now you will be meeting with President Francois Mitterrand here in Damascus and you will certainly discuss French-Syrian relations. Before we review the present and future of these relations with three journalists — Gilbert Denoyan from France-Inter, and Paul-Marie de la Gorce and Dominique Bromberger from French Television Channel 1 — with your permission, let us go back to the past. Many incidents have somewhat poisoned French-Syrian relations in recent years. French Ambassador in Beirut de Lamar was assassinated in 1981. The incident of the Rue Marbeuf in Paris took place in 1982, and the French forces in Beirut were attacked in 1983. Mr President, the French people are asking the following — Is Syria directly or indirectly responsible for these incidents?

Al-Asad: From the outset, the question appears to be a strange one. You ask whether Syria is directly or indirectly connected to this incident. Of course, Syria had nothing to do with it directly or indirectly, and Syria has no principled or moral interest in such stands. I would like to ask you in turn: Has any article that was written or any statement that was made proven that Syria had anything to do with such matters? In light of all that I have read, I found nothing that could justify any reference to Syria or any accusation involving Syria in such acts.

Question 2 by Gilbert Denoyan: Mr President, I would like to take up the question put forth by (Pierre-Luc Sikion) and add to it the following: It may be true that Syria has nothing to do with these crimes, but what surprises public opinion and some French observers is that you had no knowledge about these crimes, in spite of the fact that you are the most organized country in the region, you are strong militarily, and you have an efficient intelligence service. It is strange that you knew nothing about these crimes. This means that your intelligence organs are no longer what they were?

Al-Asad: I believe the French Government is very well acquainted with the situation in Paris. In spite of this, incidents occur in Paris and the French Government cannot prevent or avoid them. The fact that we are in Lebanon does not mean that we have information about every operation that might take place in Lebanon, whether against the French or the Syrians, or incidents that may take place among the Lebanese themselves. We had absolutely no knowledge about these incidents, and consequently Syria did not have it in its power to prevent them.

Question 3: However, I would like to ask you a last question about the question of terrorism. Mr President, as president of the Syrian Arab Republic, do you condemn any terrorist act in any political activity? Do you officially condemn terrorism?

Al-Asad: Certainly. We are against terrorism wherever it may take place. This is one of the basic truths in which we believe. We have suffered from terrorist acts more than others and have endured much. However, I find it necessary on this occasion to caution against Zionist attempts to confuse terrorism with national resistance against occupation. Terrorism is condemned. We oppose it wherever it may be. As for national resistance against foreign invasion and occupation, it is a right and a duty of all citizens whose homeland is subjected to an invasion. This is the case whoever these citizens may be and wherever this homeland is located. Otherwise, human principles that were entrenched by man in his struggle throughout history would change.

We are against terrorism in Lebanon, but we are with the Lebanese nationalist resistance against the Israeli invasion. We believe that every Lebanese should resist the Israeli occupiers with all means. We, all the Arabs, and all people who support the cause of freedom, should stand on the side of the Lebanese resistance in its struggle against the Israeli invasion. I repeat that we should not confuse the concept of terrorism with that of national resistance, which in France you practiced just as the Lebanese nationalists are doing now, although they use difference means and tools. What is important is the essence. National resistance is a patriotic and humanitarian necessity.

Question 4 by Dominique Bromberger: Mr President, we will continue this issue briefly and then talk about basic problems. Do your words mean an obvious condemnation of the crimes committed against the Multinational Forces and the Western embassies in Beirut?

Al-Asad: I am against any terrorist action and with any national action against terrorism as a whole and with national resistance for the sake of liberating the occupied territories as a whole.

Question 5: Now we will deal with French-Syrian relations. Mr President, you said recently that France, in your opinion, has a special responsibility toward Lebanon, a fact that France has not proven. At this particular time and before President Mitterrand's visit, I would like to announce the role you believe France should play in the Middle East.

Al-Asad: We always say that Syria and the Arabs want France to play an advanced role in the situation in the Middle East. We reiterated this desire during our meetings with a number of French officials and in a number of statements we have made since 1973. But what the nature of this role is and how France should play it, is something to be discussed on the basis of the existing possibilities and in light of the French and Syrian viewpoints, as well as the viewpoints of other Arab sides as far as those sides are concerned. I do not believe I have to determine the role that France should play in the region, but we would like France to play a suitable role.

Question 6: Do you want such a role for the entire region and not only for Lebanon?

Al-Asad: We hope that France will help us find an appropriate solution to these issues. Regarding Lebanon, we should discuss the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and review the domestic situation in Lebanon, specically the war that has lasted years among the Lebanese themselves as well as the results of that war. We welcome any assistance that France can extend. We have never said we are against a French step to help Lebanon save itself from its crisis, but we say that such assistance does not mean armed interference, as happened in the past. We say that we support such assistance in principle, but the manner of extending such an assistance should be discussed.

Question 7 by Paul-Marie de la Gorce: Mr President, you and President Mitterrand will discuss the entire Middle East issue, especially the Palestine question. How do you analyze this crisis and how can it end?

Al-Asad: In fact, it is basically a problem in the Palestinian arena, and more clearly among the Palestinian organizations and, consequently, within the PLO. We support PLO unity, and we will continue this support on a basis hostile to Israel's expansionist ambitions supported by the United States. We hope the PLO overcomes the difficulties it faces and emerges from them with a stronger unity on the bases of which I have just referred. We will continue our declared position that the PLO is the only side that represents the Palestinian Arab people.

Question 8: Do you consider Yasir 'Arafat an obstacle along the Palestinians' path?

Al-Asad: We do not place Yasir 'Arafat in that position. The Palestinian organizations and Yasir 'Arafat's brothers within the PLO are the ones who discuss Yasir 'Arafat's position.

Question 9: But Mr President, do you consider Yasir 'Arafat the leader or commander of the Palestinian resistance?

Al-Asad: In fact, the situation in the Palestinian arena does not support this. The Palestinian resistance means all Palestinian fighters. These Palestinian fighters are basically positioned in the Syrian and Lebanese arenas. As far as I know, Yasir 'Arafat is located elsewhere, including Jordan. I hope Jordan will allow the presence of Palestinian fighters and also their freedom of movement, as Syria does. Then there will be more talk and another assessment.

Question 10: Since you are talking about Jordan, I would like to know if Jordan's agreement to the convening of the PNC on its territory and its restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt will have results that will harm that country, Jordan?

Al-Asad: We believe that the convocation of the PNC without an agreement among the Palestinians themselves is not in the interest of the Palestine cause. Since this matter is not in the interest of the Palestine cause, then it will not be in the interest of Jordan. We in Syria look at matters from the pan-Arab angle.

Question 11 by Paul-Marie de la Gorce: Mr President, you know that the French Government pays close attention to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. Can you summarize your country's stand on this conflict — a conflict between an Arab and a non-Arab country in which you do not stand on the side of the Arab country, Iraq?

Al-Asad: The expression is not accurate here. We are not with Iran and against Iraq. From the beginning, we were not with Iran against Iraq. We condemned the Iraqi regime's invasion of Iran because we saw that this would cause grave harm to Iraq first, and to Iran and the Arab nation.

From the beginning, we believed that this invasion was expected — planned — to create a new enemy for the Arab nation, an enemy that was placed on the same level with Israel. This situation would make us distribute our forces between the front of the real enemy — the aggressive enemy planning to expand, occupy our territory, and to achieve this through strides every now and then — and the Iranian front. None of the Arabs can put Iran and Israel on an equal footing. We have a certain joint history and a number of ties with Iran. Iran did not and will not claim possession of Arab territories in Iraq or in any other Arab country. But Israel is the opposite.

I return to the beginning. We condemned the invasion because we believe it harmful to Iraq, Iran, and the Arabs. Consequently, it is harmful to Arab issues, particularly the Palestine cause.

Question 12 by Denoyan: Mr President, French Jews are demonstrating in Paris today against your government, against your rule in Syria, and against the conditions imposed on Syrian Jews. The purport of the accusation is that you consider them second-class citizens. They cannot hold public jobs or join the Army. Their movements are also difficult. Would you reply accurately to these accusations against your rule in Syria?

Al-Asad: The Syrian Jews are Syrian citizens just as the rest of the Muslim and Christian citizens. They enjoy the rights of all the others. However, we ask them to assume fewer burdens than the others. They engage in all trade and vocational fields and study at universities and schools. The demonstrations by French Jews and their non-Jewish French supporters are considered interference in the internal affairs of Syria, an independent country.

Question 13: In your opinion, Mr President, the Jews in Syria are citizens with full rights, and not second-class citizens?

Al-Asad: Yes, exactly.

Question 14 by Dominique Bromberger: Mr President, to save time, can you tell us what each of the following words means to you — France, the USSR, the United States, and Israel?

Al-Asad: France is a country that has made great contributions to human civilization. Our political relations witness ebb and tide now and then in this stage. Perhaps our coming meeting between me and President Mitterrand will contribute to stabilizing the good relations between the two countries. This is what we want, and I believe that this is also what President Mitterrand wants. In the past we sought better relations and witnessed a period during which our relations were good and stable. We hope that situation will return to what it was in the past — good and stable relations.

Israel is an enemy that seeks to occupy our territories and establish a state from the Nile to the Euphrates to include all

Syria, Lebanon, the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, and Sudan. This is a fact that you can read in Israeli books — the books that every Israeli studies. I think we do not have enough time to give examples of the dictums which they study in Israel.

The United States supports Israel's ambitions. The United States gives Israel various types of sophisticated weapons without limits. It also extends Israel funds and various economic aid. I think you will agree with me that everyone knows there is no state in the world that deals with any other state as the United States deals with Israel. Of course, U.S. officials do not conceal this or all this aid. They call this aid commitment to Israel's security. U.S. officials frequently say they are committed to Israel's security. At the same time, they say they have Arab friends. However, we have never heard them confirm their commitment to any Arab country's security as they confirm their commitment to Israel's. For the United States, Israel seems to be an internal issue.

The USSR is a friendly country which believes in peace and works for it. They extend aid to us on this basis. We deal with them on an equal footing. I mean we deal with them as a friend to a friend. The USSR does not interfere in our domestic affairs, and this is why we have stable relations and confidence that is getting stronger day after day. I said in the past — when the United States deal with us as the USSR does, then we will speak of the United States as we speak of the USSR. It is not only this; we want the United States to assume its responsibilities as a big power. I mean, to adopt a neutral and unbiased stand. We ask nothing more.

Question 15: Mr President, at the end of this program I would like to ask you a final question — There is an Amnesty International report indicating there are 10,000 political prisoners in Syria and that some of these prisoners have been tortured. I would like your reaction to such accusations.

Al-Asad: It is an incorrect report which derives its information from tendentious sources. At any rate, the matter falls within the framework of the hostile campaign against Syria.

Khaddam, Al-Shar' Return From Iran

JN181848 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Tehran today. During their visit to Iran, they held talks with 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis; Mir Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister; and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister; on the situation in the region, the latest developments in it, and bilateral relations.

Iran Reportage of Visit

For IRNA and Tehran radio reportage on the visit by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq Shar' to the Islamic Republic of Iran, including accounts of their meetings with Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Foreign Affairs Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, see the Iran section of the 19 November South Asia *DAILY REPORT.*

Reportage on Visit of Iranian Chief Justice

Musavi-Ardabili, Delegation Arrive

JN191531 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 Nov (SANA) — Iranian Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili and the accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit that will last several days. Upon arrival, Musavi-Ardabili said that his visit falls within the framework of coordination between the two friendly countries to bolster, develop and promote cooperation, particularly in the legal and judiciary field. He praised Iranian-Syrian relations and stressed the importance of deepening these relations to benefit the two countries' common interests.

Chief Justice Arrival Statement

LD192234 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, Nov. 19, IRNA — Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili arrived here Monday for talks on what he called "jurisprudence in Islam." Speaking to reporters at the airport here, Ardebili said the trip was in response to an invitation of Syria's justice officials and it was hoped that Islamic jurisprudence would be discussed with them.

Syria's Minister of Justice Khalid al-Maliki, who received Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, hoped the trip would have positive and fruitful effects on the various fields of the already good bilateral ties.

Musavi-Ardabili was accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, IRIB, Mohammad Hashemi.

Also meeting the chief justice at Damascus International Airport were Syrian religious figures and Iranian Embassy staffers.

Damascus Announces Mitterrand Visit 26-28 Nov

JN201237 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus — At the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad French President Francois Miterrand will pay an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic on 26, 27, and 28 November.

USSR Cultural Delegation Arrives in Damascus

JN191514 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 Nov (SANA) — A USSR cultural delegation headed by Tamara Golubstova, USSR deputy minister of culture, arrived in Damascus today on a week-long visit to Syria at the invitiation of the Ministry of Culture. The delegation will visit the Al-Asad library, the Palace of Culture, museums, and ancient sites in the capital and other Syrian governorates to become acquainted with historic, cultural, and ancient sites in Syria.

Al-Shar' Returns From Riyadh, Departs for Sofia

JN191857 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Riyadh this evening after conveying a message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the situation in the region.

Al-Shar' left Damascus this evening and arrived in Sofia to join the Syrian delegation there under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

Further Reportage on Visit of Hungary's Antal Apro

Apro, Al-Zu'bi Confer

JN171626 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Antal Apro, president of the Hungarian National Assembly, has expressed his country's high appreciation — people, leadership, and government — for Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad, founder of modern Syria, for its militant and heroic role in confronting imperialist and Zionist plans. He condemned aggressive U.S. policies, especially the stationing of nuclear missiles, pointing out that the United States is trying to delay talks on strategic arms limitation. This came during the talks held this morning between the People's Assembly delegation led by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the speaker of the Assembly, and the Hungarian National Assembly delegation led by Antal Apro.

People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi also spoke, pointing out that this visit comes at a time when the Syrian people are celebrating the 14th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. He expressed Syria's appreciation for the positive postions of the friendly Hungarian people and their political leadership toward Syria and the Arab nation and its just causes.

Mashariqah Receives Hungarian Official

JN171835 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah received the president of the Hungarian National Assembly this evening. The talks revolved around the friendly relations between the two countries and the situation in the Arab region. Mashariqah explained our people's struggle, under President Hafiz al-Asad, against U.S. imperialist and racist Zionist plans aimed at spreading hegemony over the region. He also stressed our people's determination to continue the struggle until they achieve their objectives of liberating the occupied Arab territories and regaining usurped Arab rights.

Al-Kasm, Hungarian Delegation Confer

JN181245 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Antal Apro, president of the Hungarian National Assembly, and his accompanying delegation at 1200 today. At the beginning of the meeting, Apro conveyed to Dr al-Kasm the greetings of Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers. The talks revolved around the existing friendship between Syria and Hungary. They asserted the need to develop cooperation in all spheres, particularly the economic, scientific, and cultural spheres, and the need to strengthen ties between the two friendly states.

Apro expressed his country's support for Syria's struggle to thwart hostile schemes. He praised Syria's social and economic progress which he had observed during his visit.

At the end of the meeting, Dr al-Kasm asked Apro to convey his greetings to Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers.

Qaddurah, Apro Meet

JN191516 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 Nov (SANA) — 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, held a meeting here today with the Hungarian National Assembly delegation led by Antal Apro, president of the National Assembly. They reviewed bilateral relations and means of promoting them in spheres of trade exchange and economic cooperation. The Hungarian delegation visited a textile factory in the Al-Qabun at 0830 today and acquainted itself with production procedures.

Khaddam, Hungarian Delegation Confer

JN192039 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has received Antal Apro, president of the Hungarian National Assembly, and his delegation. The talks revolved around relations between the two friendly countries and a number of international and regional issues.

Al-Asad Confers With PNC Speaker, PFLP Leader

JN191555 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash at 1300 today. The talks revolved around the situation in the Palestinian arena and the dangers to the cause as a result of deviation and capitulation that some sides are trying to impose on the Palestinian resistance. They also discussed the separatist trends led by these sides as well as means of confronting Zionist and imperialist plans hostile to the Arab nation and the Palestine question.

UAE's AL-KHALIJ on Rif'at al-Asad's New Duties

GF191650 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
19 Nov 84 pp 1, 19

[Muhammad Ma'tuq dispatch from London]

[Excerpts] Arab diplomatic sources in London have confirmed to *AL-KHALIJ* the authenticity of the ambiguous news report broadcast last week about a Syrian presidential decree which defined the duties of Vice President Rif'at al-Asad and paves the way for his return after his absence since June.

The sources said that a Syrian political development, the outlines of which have not been clarified yet, permitted this step after Dr al-Asad has finally been isolated from the political scene. Quoting high-ranking Syrian officials, Arab diplomatic sources in London affirmed to *AL-KHALIJ* that the news report is true.

Sources close to Dr Rif'at al-Asad in Paris told *AL-KHALIJ* that the decree is a part of the preparations which have been agreed upon. They said that other preparations will be announced later, but they refrained from discussing any details, pointing out that the issue is being discussed very secretly in high places. The same sources said that decisions which define in detail Dr Rif'at al-Asad's duties within the framework of this new measure will be issued.

The sources said that the decree, which refers to national security, means that the Syrian president's brother will assume control of the civil intelligence organ, and does not necessarily mean that Dr al-Asad will be restored to his military rank in view of the fact that a Syrian civilian, Mu'ib Shanan, has already assumed the post of Syrian defense minister.

Monte Carlo: Al-Shar' on Lebanese, PLO Affairs

JN161311 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] In an interview with the editor in chief of the Lebanese weekly *AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI*, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: Syria, while understanding the legitimate concern expressed by some national Lebanese figures over the Al-Naqurah military talks, condemns the voices casting doubt on the intentions of the Lebanese Government. Syria's understanding of the Al-Naqurah talks stems from its firm, principled stand that all methods should be used to remove the Israeli forces from Lebanon without conditions or gains. In all cases, the method of national resistance remains the only option for liberation.

Regarding Syria's evaluation of Lebanon's suspension of the Al-Naqurah talks a few days ago, Al-Shar' said: The Lebanese Government's stand is an eloquent sign aimed at making the Israelis know that they should not misunderstand the meaning of the talks.

He added: We are faced with a unique experience in the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict which will end many delusions and calls for capitulation.

Asked what will happen if Israel embarks on another partial withdrawal without allowing the Lebanese Army to deploy in the vacated positions, he answered that it is wrong to think that the Lebanese Army will not be able to deploy in these positions. He said, verbatim: I can say that the difficulties which occurred when some of the Lebanese Army's brigades were formed to deal with internal affairs will not occur when such brigades are formed to safeguard Lebanon's national security. By hinting that the Lebanese Army cannot safeguard security in the south, Israel tries to justify its employment of agent Lahd's army. Moreover, Israel's threats to undertake a partial withdrawal are only aimed at extortion and pressure.

Regarding U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's talks in Syria, Al-Shar' said that Murphy has come to Damascus more than once, and may come scores of times in the future. So far, he added, he has only discussed the Lebanese question with us. Meanwhile, we know that he touches on the entire crisis in the region when he visits the other Arab capitals. Al-Shar' added: Every time Murphy comes to Damascus and presents points that contradict or clash with Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence, Syria categorically rejects them. The voices that cast doubt on the Syrian stand will only reap the winds.

Finally Al-Shar' was asked about Yasir 'Arafat's call for a PNC session in Amman. He said: One of the strangest accusations leveled against Syria is that it wants to impose its will and decision on the PLO. Syria will continue to unhesitatingly support the Palestinian people until they restore their legitimate rights. Just as Syria supported the national and progressive forces in Lebanon to topple the 17 May agreement, it will stand at the side of the national and progressive forces in the Palestinian arena for the sake of toppling the deviationist trend.

Mashariqah Addresses Corrective Movement Rally

JN170800 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Speech by Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah at a Damascus rally commemorating the 14th anniversary of President Hafiz al-Asad's Corrective Movement — live]

[Excerpts] Our struggling masses celebrate the 14th anniversary of the Corrective Movement led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, [applause] the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Republic. The Corrective Movement of 16 November 1970 was decisive in the history of revolutionary, Ba'thist Syria, in the history of our Arab nation's liberation movement, and in modern Arab history in general.

Comrades, fellow countrymen. Syria's endeavors to realize the strategic balance with the Zionist enemy were based on one of the main goals of the 16 November policy. These endeavors were represented by building a strong Syria that is equal to the Zionist enemy in all fields. This is because the struggle in the region is a power struggle. Unless the balance is realized, the Arab territories will remain occupied and the pan-Arab rights usurped. The Arabs will remain threatened with a new occupation and usurpation as a result of the Zionist enemy's aggressive policy, carried out with U.S. imperialist support and in complete coordination with the United States within plots against the Arab nation and region.

However, the Arab masses, led by Syria of the Ba'th Party and the revolution, led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, [applause] leader of the triumphant Arab liberation march, will resist U.S. imperialist and Zionist racist plots aimed at dominating the Arab region, controlling its political, military, economic, and cultural fate, and entrenching the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation. The U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance will not succeed in realizing its aims against the people's steadfastness and against Syria's stand and determination to continue to struggle to realize Arab aims in liberating all the Arab territories and restoring all the Arab rights — headed by the Palestinian people's right of return, of self-determination, and of establishing their independent state on their soil.

There are three red lines that define our fraternal stand toward Lebanon. These lines cannot be crossed. They are:

1. Preserving the unity of the Lebanese people and territory and preventing its partition and fragmentation.
2. Working for a comprehensive, unconditional enemy withdrawal from Lebanon.
3. Realizing national reconciliation in Lebanon to restore Lebanon's strength and its role within its Arab surroundings.

While the Lebanese national resistance continues to fight and exercise pressure to realize the Israeli withdrawal without allowing the Zionist enemy to realize any gains, and as the Zionist enemy began to feel the threat of its continuous occupation in Lebanon, we find 'Arafat and the Jordanian regime working for political negotiations and offering free concessions to the Zionist enemy in coordination with the Camp David group in the region.

In indulging in his deviationist policy of getting involved in a liquidationist project, 'Arafat is now working to dismember and render inactive the PLO, something which goes against the Palestinian masses' struggle and against the achievements that the Arabs have realized for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. 'Arafat began his plot when he ended the armed struggle, threw aside the Palestinian rifle, and turned to political maneuvers. We hoped that 'Arafat and his gang would learn the lesson from the daily heroism and sacrifices of the Lebanese national resistance.

While facing the Arab nation's plots and the imperialist and Zionist aggressive policy, Syria receives support from the Arab masses because the cause is their cause and the rights are their rights. Syria receives support from the forces of liberation and progress, particularly the socialist states led by the friendly USSR, [applause] which is the true ally of the Arab nation and its just causes. Here we must point out the great developments in the nature of the Syrian-USSR relations, which appeared following the blessed Corrective Movement — developments that serve the joint aims of struggle of the two countries. These developments reached an advanced stage when the cooperation and friendship treaty was signed in 1980. This treaty contributed to strengthening our friendship and expanding the scope of cooperation between the two countries. It also contributed to bolstering Syria's defense capabilities in facing the plots of the Arab nation's enemies.

People's Assembly Reelects Al-Zu'bi Speaker

JN171846 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly has reelected Mahmud al-Zu'bi as People's Assembly speaker. It also reelected the deputy speaker, the two secretaries, and the two observers. The People's Assembly held a session this evening under Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs, 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and a number of ministers attended.

TISHRIN on Attempts to Disrupt Lebanese March

JN180951 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 18 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Firm Syrian Commitment," *TISHRIN* says: It is truly regrettable that some local Lebanese developments should remain illogical with regard to the principal and most important issue — the expulsion of the Israeli invaders from southern Lebanon. The most surprising thing is that although all the Lebanese sides agree on the priority of liberating all of Lebanon, some of these sides behave in a manner that contradicts with what has been unanimously agreed upon. Syria, which has always extended unlimited support for the Lebanese construction and accord march, frequently finds itself forced to urge the various Lebanese sides to adhere to the first priority of liberating the Lebanese territory. It continues its endeavors out of its great sense of responsibility toward Lebanon and the Lebanese and the common interest, security, and destiny, and because it wants the construction and accord march to continue.

The intentional attempts to create a rift between Syria and this or that Lebanese side are aimed at denying the national Lebanese action to liberate the south and continue the construction and accord march from the Syrian support, which made the Lebanese position stronger and further consolidated Lebanon's positive moves to achieve its objectives.

TISHRIN on Jordan's Attempt To Represent Palestinians

JN190918 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 Nov (SANA) — The newspaper *TISHRIN* affirms that holding the PNC session in the present circumstances does not serve the interests of the Palestinians or the Arab nation. In a comment today, the paper explains that the refusal of several Arab countries to host the PNC session was not because they did not want the council to convene, but because they were concerned about the unity of Palestinian ranks and the continuation of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

TISHRIN reviews Syria's stand in support of the PLO and says that leader Hafiz al-Asad had fought a real battle in the [1974] Rabat summit to establish the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

The paper points out that the Jordanian regime, which is trying hard to represent the Palestinians, has exploited the resumption of the dialogue with 'Arafat and his group to reactivate the Jordanian Parliament, which includes representatives of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and thus raise once again the question of dual representation of the Palestinians. The paper says that 'Arafat was made "to swallow" this move through the claim that it is an internal Jordanian move, yet it withdraws from the PLO the Rabat summit's recognition that it is the sole, legitimate representation of the Palestinian Arab people.

Concluding its comment, *TISHRIN* refers to Jordan's resumption of diplomatic and political relations with the Egyptian regime and says whoever follows the Jordanian-'Arafat moves will notice the complete coordination of stands with the Mubarak and Saddam regimes to start a new capitulation line in the region on the basis of the Reagan initiative, which is essentially based on the Camp David line and which Mubarak considers as the only framework for achieving peace in the region.

Sides Continue Discussion at Al-Naqurah Talks

Lebanese Plan Criticized

TA191527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Officers with the Israeli delegation to the Al-Naqurah talks say that the military deployment plan presented by Lebanon today seems pretentious and ambitious to them, considering that the Lebanese Army is unable to maintain order even in Beirut and its surroundings. This is reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

Lebanon proposed dividing the area south of the Al-Awwali River into three zones and stationing a brigade in two of them while deploying a smaller unit in the third zone. According to this deployment plan, forces would not be stationed around the refugee camps.

The Lebanese delegation returned to Beirut this afternoon to present Israel's position and to receive new guidelines.

Gilbo'a on Talks

TA191722 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The third round of talks in Al-Naqurah ended this afternoon. The joint communique su up the round said that progress was made in the talks. Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a, the head of the Israeli delegation, delivered a firm speech and repeated Israel's positions on security arrangements in the south. The spokesman for the Lebanese delegation reacted by saying: Lebanon will not be Israel's policeman.

Lebanon showed a more flexible position on another matter, when its delegates announced that there is room for concessions in connection with the reparations demanded of Israel and the status of the Armistice Commission. Our correspondent Nitzan Horowitz reports from Al-Naqurah:

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] The three delegations met at 1000 today in the conference room of the French contingent of UNIFIL. The talks were opened by Brig Gen 'Amos Gilbo'a, who delivered a firm speech; the gist of which is a rejection of the Lebanese proposals raised at the previous meeting and an insistence on the importance Israel attributes to security arrangements in southern Lebanon. Later, Israel asked Lebanon for details on the plans for the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the area between the Al-Awwali and Al-Zahrani Rivers. Colonel Khalil of the Lebanese delegation used maps to explain the Lebanese plans. At that point, the ice was broken and the two sides carried on a direct and open dialogue with one another. Said Brig Gen 'Amos Gilbo'a:

[Gilbo'a] We began to discuss the security arrangements, and at this point I would like to emphasize that from the word "go" I told the Lebanese — and I repeated my statement — that the main reason we are here is to discuss security arrangements that will guarantee peace for the Galilee and secure our northern border. Today we started to talk about these points. One other point — I repeated today for the nth time that unless security arrangements which are acceptable to us and which will secure the northern part of the country are obtained, IDF soldiers will not leave Lebanon. I let them understand this in the clearest way possible. I said this to them in previous meetings, and I repeated this today, too. I presume they got the message.

[Horowitz] The main points of dispute at today's meeting had to do with the location and role of UNIFIL, and the status of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL]. Lebanon strongly objects to the existence of the ASL.

[Gilbo'a] The Lebanese position, as it was presented in previous meetings as well as today, places emphasis on the deployment of UNIFIL along the border. What was explained to them in no uncertain terms both before and today, even more so when we began discussing the substantive issues, is that the basic guidelines by which we operate is that UNIFIL must deploy throughout the entire area the IDF evacuates. It will deploy mainly in the northern areas.

[Horowitz] In general, the two sides summed up; the atmosphere in the talks was good despite the differences of opinion which at this point appear to be very substantial. [end recording]

19 Nov Session Reviewed

TA191842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Another round of Israeli-lebanese military talks was held today at Al-Naqurah. The next session will be held on Wednesday. At today's talks, the Lebanese delegation presented the Lebanese Army's plan to deploy its forces in south Lebanon. Vivian Royston reports:

[Begin recording] [Royston] Today's talks, according to UNIFIL sources, got down to specifics. The Lebanese delegation brought out maps to explain their intended deployment in and around the towns of Sidon and Tyre. The Israeli delegation perused the plan, then asked for and received clarifications, according to Lebanese liaison officer Lieutenant Colonel (Bassam Sa'd). According to Israel's delegates' head, 'Amos Gilbo'a, if Lebanon doesn't agree to security arrangements which are acceptable to Israel, the IDF will not leave Lebanon. The sensitive issue of the south Lebanese army was not discussed today.

There were two [as heard] points, according to the IDF spokesman, Brigadier General Ya'aqov Even, on which the two delegations do agree: Israel's recognition of Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territory; the legitimate role of the Lebanese army in aiming towards the restoration of peace and order in Lebanon; and the pledge of Israel to leave all of Lebanon when security is guaranteed.

Gen Even, however, said that Israel is not satisfied with two aspects of the plans presented by the Lebanese delegation:

[Even] The Lebanese suggestion tends to minimize the presence of UNIFIL, and second, as I said before, the Lebanese plan is not yet complete as far as the protection of the population inside the refugee camps is concerned.

[Royston] Lebanese liaison officer (Sa'd) agrees that there are differences:

[(Sa'd)] Israel asked for the protecting the camps of Palestinians, the way we should protect it. But we respond, we answer that we have to ensure all the region, not only the Palestinian camps — which is taken into consideration also.

[Royston] What about the role of UNIFIL?

[(Sa'd)] It is essential role.

[Royston] Despite all these differences, the joint statement issued at the end of today's talks by the UNIFIL spokesman stated that principles for security arrangements were presented by both sides, and some positive elements appeared during discussions.

The talks will be resumed at Al-Naqurah next Wednesday. [end recording]

Lahd on Cooperation With Lebanese Army

TA191704 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Antoine Lahd, the commander of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL], will accept the incorporation of the ASL into the official Lebanese Army only if he sees that the Lebanese Army has strengthened and can truly control the south and maintain its security. Interviewed by IDF Radio, the commander of the ASL said that since the Al-Naqurah talks began, the terrorists have stepped up their attempts to attack his soldiers. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports:

[Begin recording] ASL commander Antoine Lahd follows the Al-Naqurah talks between IDF and Lebanese Army officers from his office in Marj 'Uyun. Only about 2 weeks ago, in reaction to statements by the heads of the delegations, he announced that he would not allow the Lebanese Army to deploy in southern Lebanon. Today, however, he sounded a bit less adamant: Only a strong Lebanese Army will be able to be incorporated within the army we are currently establishing in southern Lebanon.

Antoine Lahd said that either way he will refuse to head a Lebanese Army that is composed of troops and officers from both armies. The ASL commander says that since the beginning of the Al-Naqurah talks, the terrorist attempts to attack his soldiers have increased. The terrorists want to frighten the ASL soldiers by means of different operations. He added that many Shi'ite soldiers are not joining the ASL because of terrorist actions by Shi'ite leaders in Beirut and southern Lebanon directed against those wanting to join the ASL's ranks. [end recording]

Shamir Repeats Stand on Security in North

TA200613 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has reiterated the Israeli stand that Israel's northern civilian settlements must be adequately protected from cross-border attacks before its troops withdraw from southern Lebanon. Shamir was speaking at an Israel Bonds dinner in Los Angeles honoring Armand Hammer, chairman of the Occidental Petroleum Corporation. Shamir asked Hammer to intercede with Soviet leaders regarding the restrictions imposed by the Soviet Government on emigration of Soviet Jews.

Mubarak Said To Send Personal Envoy for Talks

TA200608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] The Egyptian president has confirmed that he intends to send a personal envoy to Israel soon, to prepare the ground for the improvement of bilateral relations. However, in the meantime he will not return his ambassador to Tel Aviv. The president of the B'nai Brith Organization in the United States said this to correspondents, following his meeting with President Mubarak a few days ago.

A senior Egyptian diplomat in Washington confirmed that the Egyptian president intends to send an envoy to Israel, stating that this will be a very positive step vis-a-vis the Peres government.

Rabin Expected To Fight Cuts in Defense Budget

TA200816 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Report by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Excerpt] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is expected to fight a demand that the defence budget be cut by $150 million for a total $450m. slash this fiscal year. "It is impossible to institute this newest cut, simply impossible," a source told *THE JERUSALEM POST* last night.

While the source admitted that this refrain had accompanied every Treasury demand for cuts in the defence budget in the past, "this time," he said, "it is different."

There are no more research projects that can be frozen, no more training hours that can be cut, and no more decreases possible in strategic stockpiles, *THE POST* was told. There was a point beyond which the defence minister could not go without compromising Israel's ability to defend itself, the source stressed.

Cuts in strategic stockpiles have a ripple effect on the entire defence infrastructure, he said. When orders for ammunition are cut, factories — the smooth operation of which is essential in times of emergency — have to close lines and pay off highly qualified staff.

Moreover, sources explained, cutting stockpiles and the size of the standing army increases the burden on the immediate defence budget. Some major defence companies are already feeling the pinch, although the Israel Aircraft Industries has hardly been affected, thanks largely to hundreds of millions of dollars brought in by orders from abroad.

The Israel Military Industries, REFA'EL [Hebrew initials for Armament Development Authority], and hundreds of satellite factories have either severely cut their staffs, or have closed.

Pilot training hours; reserve training and the use of live ammunition have all been slashed to "a point we dare not go beyond," *THE POST* was told.

Demands that the Lavi fighter project be either stopped or cut back were declared "uninformed demagoguery" by defence sources who pointed out that almost all the funding for the project comes from the U.S. The project injects money into local defence industries, safeguards thousands of jobs for workers who would otherwise have to be both paid off and given social welfare, and generates orders from subcontractors.

It was pointed out that until now Rabin has supported all demands for cuts in the defence budget, even if he has not agreed with them. Now he has drawn a red line, "and this round we can expect a real fight," the source concluded.

Despite Rabin's intention to fight the cut, it seems highly unlikely that he will be able to prevent it, or at least a large part of it. The defence budget is estimated to be over $5 billion out of a total budget of $21b. of which $10b. goes for repayment of internal and external debt. Defence spending thus constitutes almost half of the country's budget.

Package Deal May Be Extended For 3 Months

TA191648 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Nov 84 pp 1, 11

[Gabi Kessler report]

[Excerpt] The Finance Ministry has been consolidating a plan according to which the "package deal" would be extended for another 3 months. According to this plan, the price freeze would be partially lifted in the interim period but would be reimposed for another 3 months.

According to Treasury officials, an extension of the "package deal" could lower inflation to a monthly rate of 6 to 7 percent (in January's Consumer Price Index) at the end of the current deal and lead to a monthly increase of only 1 to 2 percent at the end of the second freeze in April.

In the third stage, when inflation reaches an annual level of only 10 to 15 percent, the plan to stabilize the Israeli currency by linking it to the U.S. dollar or a currency basket would be put into effect.

Subsequent Steps Proposed

TA201237 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] The Finance Ministry has rejected a demand by members of the Knesset Finance Committee to link the income tax brackets to the index. This has been learned by our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik. The Finance Ministry says that any wage increment anchored in a contract signed before the beginning of the freeze period will be paid, but that other wage increments — including the erosion increment which is currently being examined — will be paid only at the end of the freeze period.

The finance minister today told senior civil servants that he is considering three ways of emerging from the package deal period: patamization — namely, linking wages and prices to the dollar; a large devaluation; or extending the duration of the deal.

Finance Minister on Economic Issues, U.S. Aid

TA181942 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Nov 84

[First radio interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by moderator Yitzhaq Golan, Prof Efrayim Kleinman, and correspondent Yitzhaq Taub, on the weekly "News Conference" program — live in the studio]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Good evening to you, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. The first question I want to pose to you is as follows: The package deal is already in high gear, despite the problems that have accompanied it to a certain extent, and the next stage has begun. This stage, as you defined it, is that of state budget cuts, reduced buying power from the public, the dismissal of workers, and the enforcing [kefiyat] of new standards of living to achieve the goal of a better, more stable future. How do you intend to do all this?

[Moda'i] You are mistaken in saying that a new stage is beginning; we decided 6 or more weeks ago to effect a deep cut in the government's budget totaling $1 billion; today the government decided on another budget cut of $550 million. In the meantime, we have extended the freeze on new government contracts by another 3 months. We have also put into use systems for increased tax collection at the source; we have imposed levies on imports, transfers of capital and so on and so forth, to protect our balance of payments. We have also decreased the sums Israelis are permitted to take while traveling abroad, for example. In short, this entire system of decreasing both private and public activity is in high gear indeed. Naturally, the actual processes of implementation are longer, and we are trying to accelerate them to obtain real results by the time the economic package deal is over.

[Kleinman] There is a question of timing which is troubling me a little. The logic behind a package deal is in fact, to moderate the recession created in the economy through a decrease in government and public demands [biqushim], thus ensuring that these cuts are reflected in curbing inflation somewhat, and decreasing imports, increasing exports, rather than in unemployment. My feeling is that the package deal was concluded before the cuts have begun to be implemented.

[Moda'i] This is not so. Some of the cuts have already been effected. So far we have real cuts in government expenditures amounting to nearly $200 million. Additionally, we cut subsidies by about $200 million. If you add to this the freeze in government contracts that has been in effect for 3 months, you come up with an achievement which definitely decreases inflationary pressures. This is not enough, of course. The package deal is giving us time for increased efforts in this direction.

[Taub] Practically speaking, the freeze means, to a certain extent, that you are actually increasing the subsidies you had earlier cut in the course of the package deal. A good example of this is fuel. I understand that fuel subsidies total between $40 to 50 million per month; in other words, the cuts you achieved earlier with such difficulty have now been offset, and it is this pill you must now swallow.

[Moda'i] No, the figures are not precise. If the processes of curbing inflation and decreasing the Consumer Price Index rates during the package deal period will develop according to the models we have drawn — and we will not touch the subsidies anymore — we will then reach a cumulative loss of $140 million. However, I said "if not" [if we do not touch the subsidies]. After all, the package deal was achieved by the agreement of all parties, it will be possible to insert changes in it. Witness the fact that we have already introduced several changes so as to reduce inflationary pressure.

[Golan] When you talk of a cut in government expenditures — you mentioned $1 billion decided upon before the package deal and about $0.5 billion decided on today — you used the expression of goal. Can you point to real cuts? Can you point to progress toward the goal that these cuts will help achieve? The impression is that the tripartite package deal was achieved and signed — in short, it exists — while there is no package deal among the Cabinet ministers.

[Moda'i] These — the package deal among the ministers and the implementation of budget cuts — are two separate questions. If there is a package deal among the Cabinet ministers, this only makes the process of cuts more difficult but it does not prevent it! In answer to a previous question, I said that we have already in fact cut government expenditures other than subsidies. I said we have cut about $200 million so far, over a period of about 45 days, in addition to $200 million cut in subsidies. As a result, we can show real cuts to date. However this is insufficient of course, since, if we want to lower inflation to the desirable level at the end of the package deal — a level which will be reflected in the January index published on 15 February — the cut in demands should be much more serious so that the market mechanism that is created will allow for consistently decreasing inflation from that point onward.

[Golan] You have not answered me on the package deal within the government.

[Moda'i] This was not by accident. It is not my custom to settle accounts publicly which should be restricted to the Cabinet meetings themselves. All I can say in response to such a question is that I regret some of the unnecessary, troublesome phenomena which are not based on substantive considerations. However, this is the government which was set up with great efforts, a national unity government, and my only regret is that it has not acted in a united manner, at least not on the issue of economic recovery. However, there is hope still; this is only the beginning of its work, after all.

[Golan] I would like to return to the issue of cuts in government expenditures. You mentioned earlier about $400 million which have already been cut — two cuts of $200 million each. In other words, the $1 billion has not yet been cut. My question then is when and where will the real cut begin, a cut which the government offices will begin to feel, with the fattest fish clearly being in the Defense Ministry's budget. There is talk of freezing certain projects. You are surely aware of the occasional comments made by various circles that some projects, including the Lavi, should be frozen under the present economic circumstances. Is it possible to implement a freeze, to begin with?

[Moda'i] As for the first part of your question, it seems to me that there is at least an optical illusion here. The full cut of, let us say $1.5 billion, when it is approved, will extend over an entire year. Nobody expects that the cut will total $1.5 billion in the current fiscal year [ending on 31 March 1985], or alternatively, in the number of months still remaining, 6 months from the time of introducing the first budget cut, and 4 months from a week or two from now. Only the part proportionate to this time period will be cut, even less than this since there are deals which are underway now and cannot be cancelled. Therefore, it is necessary to have the auxiliary activities, the freeze on additional contracts, for example, manipulations in injecting money into the economy, and delays in funneling funds into the economy for as long as possible. Our major problem is how to emerge from the package deal with minimum inflationary pressures. There will be such pressures, undoubtedly, but the question is how we can minimize them as much as possible. I can tell you now that we have various thoughts on this matter, but it is pointless to mention them. These ideas should be voiced in the framework of talks among the parties to the package deal, and the agreements reached in this framework will work in favor of all parties concerned, namely, all citizens of the State of Israel.

[Taub] I would like to move on to a somewhat different sphere. This is a unique government, a national unity government. If I analyze how you operate — and every finance minister is somewhat isolated — you may perhaps be the first Israeli finance minister who received the full support of the prime minister, but enjoyed very little backing by his ministerial colleagues. Do you feel that politically this state of affairs allows you to operate beyond the 6-month range in which you have been operating now?

[Moda'i] Let us first see things as they are. Every finance minister enjoyed the backing — whether or not it was active — of the prime minister, and also the support of his ministerial colleagues. Of course, when I undertook this office, I pinned a lot of hope on the fact that a national unity government was being established, so that support for us both in the Cabinet and in the Knesset would be broad. I must say that what we see outside is really a lot of fireworks. The fact of the matter is — and I do not glory in this situation at all, because I do not look back on the path that I have already walked, but rather on the course I have yet to march that is rife with hurdles and yet is one that I must cross within a short and limited period of time — that decisions on such cuts, or freezes, or taxation have not been adopted with such speed, at least not in the governments in which I was a member. This does not indicate the price of the pound of flesh that I lose every day, or the pints of blood that I spill every day; but the result is by far better than in the Cabinets I sat in which took measures parallel to these. I have yet to see the effective implementation of these decisions in what is known as "the field."

I must say that at this moment, in this sphere, I have no cause for despair. I say it is very difficult, and part of the difficulty is totally unnecessary, although part of the difficulty is objective, of course. Still, the other part is absolutely unnecessary. Nevertheless, I believe in the formula maintaining that there is no other choice.

It seems to me that we are all embroiled in a situation in which there is no other choice, and I perhaps more than everyone else, being the finance minister, am aware of this. I know this is the way.

[Golan] We have had five ministers in the past 7 years — not through the initiative of the opposition. My question to you is: What is your red line, beyond which Yitzhaq Moda'i will say that that is it, and will not budge any further?

[Moda'i] First of all the goal is economic recovery, and I know this is very ambitious. But I also know that there is no other way. In regard to the red line, as long as my powers have not failed me, I will pursue this road, which I believe will lead us steadfastly to an economic recovery.

[Golan] A Treasury delegation is currently in Washington. My question, Mr Moda'i, is: Do you anticipate increased U.S. aid in the next fiscal year in the area of $5 billion?

[Moda'i] No, definitely not. I would like to say that it is about time we rid ourselves of these illusions. With all the friendship that he cherishes toward us, the U.S. taxpayer is not prepared to shoulder the Israeli standard of living beyond our own ability to shoulder it. Let it be clear that without our helping ourselves first, no U.S. aid would help; it would only extend the waste for another period of time.

Therefore the Treasury delegation left with crystal-clear instructions: You will describe the processes we have begun, tell about the processes we intend to implement later, and kindly tell our U.S. friends that we have no further demands from them, with the possible exception of the military sphere — where the balance is completely different — but not in the civilian sphere.

We only ask them that if, in this process, we encounter a *force majeure* — and I emphasize, circumstances that are outside our control, such as, God forbid, a more serious oil crisis, or additional strengthening of the dollar, which may be what the Americans want but which works against us — that we will, in accordance with the U.S. President's declaration, hope that in such circumstances they will provide us with the bridge, the opportunity to tide the times over.

Outside that, we want the same civilian aid, in the same dimensions; we have to do all the rest.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Mr Minister.

Upcoming PNC Session in Amman Stirs Comment

Daily Lauds Convocation

JN201124 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Nov 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Why the National Council?"]

[Text] As the date of the 17th PNC session approaches, the need to convene it is daily emphasized and the accelerating development of events give additional reasons to expedite its convocation.

Convening the PNC is apparently the only method that can preserve the PLO and both protect and promote the accomplishments achieved by our people throughout the years of the difficult, bloody march. The PNC session is required because it will be the starting point for an end to the state of paralysis in the legitimate institutions and because it will give answers from the highest Palestinian body to all the challenges facing our people and the Arab peoples as well. This means that the attempts to void the Palestinian role will be foiled at a time when the envoys of U.S. imperialism are touring the region to conclude suspect bargains at the expense of its peoples.

During the last 10 months, the Palestinian leadership offered all capabilities and opportunities, opened all doors, and welcomed all initiatives for the sake of normalizing Palestinian-Syrian relations so that the members of the so-called National Alliance would return to dialogue and Palestinian legitimacy. However, the results are known, particularly to Algeria, the PDRY, and the factions that signed the Aden-Algiers agreement, because the Syrian intransigence was obvious. This intransigence was naturally followed by the mercenary and dissident groups that rejected the national unity agreement and comprehensive national dialogue and refused to appeal to the institutions or to attend the PNC session.

If the national factions had agreed to postpone the session until Hafiz al-Asad's heart relented it would have been — after the real Syrian stand had become clear — like offering the national Palestinian decision to the Syrian intelligence circles as an easy morsel. It would have also meant approval of the continuation of the institutions' paralysis and of the absence of the Palestinian role at an extremely difficult stage in which plots against the Palestinian rights are getting fiercer.

All those who care for the Palestinian cause and rights and for our people's unity and the PLO's existence are required to attend the PNC session. Those who tremble when they hear that the PNC will convene do so because they stand away from the national unanimity that rejects tutelage and subservience. Those who fear a PNC session are the ones who want the Palestinian institutions' paralysis and absence to continue.

Let all efforts be united to bring about the success of the next session. Let those who only form a clique unaffiliated to its people in favor of its subservience to Arab intelligence circles return to their normal size. Our people will again prove that they are stronger than tutelage and containment.

Postponement Urged

JN191458 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 15 Nov 84 p 3

[Article by *AL-TALI'AH* Chief Editor Bashri al-Barghuti: "A Suitable Way To Solve the Current Crisis Is To Postpone the PNC and Activate the Institutions"]

[Excerpts] It is not difficult to assess the harm a unilateral call for convening the PNC will cause to PLO unity, its position, role, Arab and international alliances, independence, and political stands. The opposition to Fatah's unilateral call for convening a new PNC session before achieving an agreement with the Palestinian sides, especially the Democratic Alliance, shows the depth of the division that such a call will create and the subsequent serious damage if this session is convened.

An Executive Committee elected under the national unity that characterized the Algiers session and one that is reactivated on the basis of the Aden-Algiers agreement and according to the Democratic Alliance's proposals is better in every way than an Executive Committee elected by a Council that represents one side in the midst of extensive differences with the other sides.

Such an Executive Committee will face numerous problems with regard to recognition, credibility, and role. Algeria and the PDRY did not agree to host the PNC, not because they lack independence, but because they did not want to participate in worsening the Palestinian division. Thus, it is easy to deduce that they oppose the convocation of the PNC in Amman or anywhere else under the current circumstances, since the Palestinian sides have not yet agreed on convening it. They will subsequently have reservations on the results of such a meeting, as well as on the executive committee. It can be said, on the basis of what Soviet official Brutents said in Beirut last month when he noted that the USSR will not agree to splitting the PLO, that the stand of the USSR, other socialist countries, and several other forces that support the Palestinian people will be similar to the stand of Algeria and the PDRY — a stand that opposes the convocation of the PNC under the threat of division.

Therefore, we do not see any benefit in convening the PNC under the current circumstances. We must not avoid facing the facts in the name of independence. Algeria and the PDRY are two independent countries and allies of the Palestinian people, and they both oppose the convocation of the PNC under the threat of division.

The Democratic Alliance affirmed its independence throughout the crisis, expressing its stands to achieve the Aden-Algiers agreement, and adhered to its comprehensiveness and all its details. It also opposes convening the PNC under the current circumstances.

If those who support the convocation of the PNC under the current circumstances continue to use the pretext of independence and continue to accuse those who do not agree with them of losing their independence, they will end up denying the Palestinian people's allies and friends, including the USSR and the other socialist countries, their independence. This is not in their interest and we do not believe that they want this.

Syrian Stand Criticized

JN191107 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
18 Nov 84 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "Arab Geography or National Palestinian History?"]

[Text] The United States is exerting great pressures to prevent the convocation of the PNC at its scheduled time in Amman. Actually, it is not incidental that these U.S. pressures coincide with the official Syrian stand that insists on this prevention and on attempting to establish an alternative PLO. Although it is natural for the United States to act against the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership and against the reactivation of the PLO institutions, headed by the PNC, we cannot understand, interpret, and analyze the stand of the Palestinian factions affiliated to the "Democratic Alliance", especially since this is a national grouping hostile to U.S. policy in the region. Is it possible that in this case the stand of the "Democratic Alliance" converges with the U.S. stand? Or is it merely a matter of subjugation to Hafiz al-Asad's regime and commitment to its schemes and programs that are contrary to the national Palestinian welfare, particularly at this stage?

The national Palestinian welfare is naturally stronger and more important than any Arab regime and any Arab capital. At the threshold of the 17th PNC session, we continue to say as we have always said that convening the PNC in any Arab capital does not affect the independent Palestinian decision, as proven by the convocation of the previous sessions in several capitals and by the adoption of resolutions unaffected by these capitals. Why then all this clamor that casts doubt on this Arab capital in particular? We will not discuss the mere geographical reasons, because had it not been for the current difficult circumstances the PNC would have better convened on purely Palestinian soil no matter how small it is. However, this soil does not exist at present, and as long as this continues to be the case, all Arab capitals are alike as far as the PNC session is concerned.

That is georgraphy. As for history, it says that the Syrian regime is currently trying to coopt the entire Palestine question in favor of its relations with and policies toward the United States and Israel. As the PLO will not allow this attempt to succeed regardless of the obstacles and sacrifices, they are accusing it and its legitimate leadership, represented by Yasir 'Arafat, of relinquishment and rightist deviation. What a major fallacy this is!

When the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat stand against the hostile U.S. plan in the region, Yasir 'Arafat becomes a rightist and Al-Asad's regime, which welcomes the U.S. delegations that arrive in Damascus day after day, becomes a symbol of revolutionary leftism and national steadfastness. This fallacy can be settled decisively only by implementing the independent Palestinian decision through holding the 17th PNC session in Amman on 22 November without hesitation or delay. This is because the issue, as we have said, is not one of a certain date or a scheduled place, but that we should have a solid will, an independent decision, and a comprehensive Palestinian plan; or else we submit to the decisions of the Arab regimes in Damascus or elsewhere.

Palestinian Split Noted

JN201015 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Nov 84 p 1

[Editorial: "The Source of Real Danger"]

[Text] Argument has so far been evolving on whether the PNC will meet or not. As is known, the Palestinian opinions were divided into supporters, opponents, and a third group that opposes these two sides.

With the phenomenon of polarization that has taken place regarding the PNC, attempts were recently made to break the current stalemate by holding meetings for the other Palestinian institutions, such as the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council, in an attempt to settle the abstruse crisis.

The PLO Executive Committee was scheduled to meet in Tunis yesterday in an attempt to settle the differences. However, the factions concerned did not respond to the call and did not attend. This has resulted in hampering the meeting.

Thus, the conflict and differences among the organizations affected not only the issue of holding the PNC session, but also all of the Palestinian institutions and all sectors of citizens. Here lies the real danger.

The question is: Why do the Palestinian organizations not meet face to face in order to exchange viewpoints within the democratic frameworks and channels, to discuss these viewpoints, and to select the proper alternatives and solutions at this delicate Palestinian stage? Or is it that these factions can no longer find a denominator among themselves, and the brother has become an enemy and a traitor who exchanges accusations and even rockets with his brother?

The meeting of the PNC, the PLO Executive Committee and all of the Palestinian institutions is a matter that is necessitated by current circumstances, which call for a meeting and dialogue in order to end estrangement and settle differences without foreign pressure.

HADASH Leader Opposes PNC

TA191904 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1655 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 19 Nov (ITIM) — Speaking at a meeting of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality [HADASH] Executive, Executive Chairman and Knesset Member Me'ir Wilner said: "We have and will continue to support the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to establish an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip alongside Israel. We have recognized, and will continue to recognize, the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. We assess the development within the PLO according to two criteria:

1) According to the PLO's political plan: As formulated at the 16th council in Algiers, the Arab summit in Fes, and the meeting in Aden, the plan seems to us to be a just and realistic peace plan. We also regard favorably the support by the PLO and the Arab countries for an international conference for the establishment of a comprehensive peace for the Middle East under UN aegis, with the participation of all the parties involved in the conflict — including Israel and the PLO — as well as that of the Soviet Union and the United States. This is the only realistic way to establish peace.

2) According to the contribution to the unity of the PLO by all the patriotic Palestinian forces.

"In the current circumstances, we regard the meeting of the PNC in Amman as an incorrect move which might deepen the split within the PLO. We have been opposed and we will continue to be opposed to the false positions of circles that caused and exacerbated the split within the PLO.

"The enemies of the Palestinian people and those who sabotage a just peace in the Middle East — the Reagan administration, the ruling circles in Israel, and Arab reactionary elements — will seize this opportunity to proceed with their conspiracies in the spirit of the Camp David deal and the Reagan plan in order to deepen the split within the PLO and among the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and outside them.

"We are not interfering in the PLO's internal affairs, but it seems to us that the proposals for a meeting of the PLO's Central Council and Executive at this stage and the subsequent meeting of the 17th Palestine National Council on the basis of broad unity are the most logical proposals in the current circumstances."

West Bank Opinion Divided

TA192003 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpts] [Begin videotape] [Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] an extraordinarily sharp dispute between 'Arafat's supporters and opponents. Evidently the burning of journalist Raymonda al-Tawil's car in Ramallah yesterday is part of this struggle, although Al-Tawil, who is a staunch supporter of the PLO leader, directs her arrows at none other than the defense minister.

[Al-Tawil — in English] Rabin is responsible for not allowing the Palestinians to go to the PNC. Rabin is responsible for not allowing the Palestinian moderates to express their voices.

[Correspondent — in English] Suppose the Palestinian moderates, as you call them, would have gone to Amman. How would it affect the outcome of the Palestinian convention?

[Al-Tawil — in English] Well, of course it strengthens the position, because what I mean the moderates — I mean the whole population of the occupied territories — are for 'Arafat, and for the moderate line, and for the two-state solution.

[Correspondent] Thus the different camps are flexing their muscles. In various places, such as Bi'r Zayt University, pro-'Arafat rallies were convened. The 'Arafat supporters favor convening the PNC in Amman, and precisely this week, as the only way to fight against the enemies from the outside.

Graffiti expressing opposition is on many Bi'r Zayt houses, saying no to the resumption of ties between Jordan and Egypt, and no to the convening of the PNC in Amman. 'Arafat's opponents claim that the time is not ripe for that convention. 'Arafat's opponents say that there is no question that if the PNC meets as scheduled, this will mean a final split within the PLO ranks. [end videotape]

DAVAR on Possible Outcome

TA200640 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 84

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *DAVAR* looks at the possible outcome of Thursday's scheduled meeting of the PNC in Amman. The paper says that the meeting could formalize the split in the PLO between the rejection front and those willing to cooperate with Jordan and Egypt in seeking a political solution with Israel. The question is, says *DAVAR*, whether Israel would change its position on 'Arafat's PLO if the PLO changes its tune and abandons terror for political dialogue. The Israeli stand until now has been that if the PLO changes its direction, then it would no longer be the PLO. Therefore, Israel may soon find itself dealing with a new phenomenon, says *DAVAR*.

Arabs' Participation Urged

TA191744 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1730 GMT 19 Nov 84

["Announcement by the MAPAM Spokeswoman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 19 Nov (ITIM) — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the defense minister have often declared their support for the Jordanian option to promote peace and solve the Palestinian problem. Therefore they should encourage West Bank representatives to go to Amman to participate in the PNC session in order to exert a moderate influence on it, MAPAM political secretary and Knesset Member Haya Grossman said.

The very fact that the PNC is being held in Amman raises the objections of Palestinian extremists. The burning of Raymonda al-Tawil's car is a signal indicating radicalization and opposition to the possibility of coexistence and a Jordanian-Palestinian solution. What prompts the Cabinet to join such a move? Will the partnership with Shamir, the foreign minister from Herut, have such an overpowering effect so as to cloud Shim'on Peres' political sensibility?

PNC Meeting Causes Concern for 'Terrorist' Acts

TA180957 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Nov 84 p 1

[Eytan Haber report]

[Text] The IDF, police and border police throughout the country have been placed on high alert over the last few days because of the threat of attacks by various terrorist organizations in anticipation of the PNC meeting scheduled to be held in Amman at the end of the week.

It is assumed that all the organizations, or some of them, will want to impress the meeting's participants by a successful massive atack in Israel, Lebanon, the territories or abroad.

Considering these possibilities, the police are calling on the public to be even more alert than usual.

Rabin Defends Razing of West Bank Structures

TA200829 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Nov 84 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Arye Rubinstein]

[Excerpt] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday defended the demolition of illegal structures at Al-Jifliq, near the Dam'ya Bridge.

Replying to motions for the agenda by Tawfiq Tubi (Democratic Movement for Peace and Equality) and Yosi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement), Rabin said that the courts had rejected the appeals of the occupants.

The area is near the border, he said, and security considerations are foremost.

Rabin said that 77 metal huts, two tents, and nine clay huts, all put up within the past year, had been razed.

He said the occupants are residents of the Nabulus and Tubas area who were employed by the Al-Jifliq landowners, also residents of Nabulus, to work their land.

Their right to work on the land has not been affected, and all of the occupants had their permanent dwellings elsewhere, Rabin said.

Car of West Bank Correspondent Burned

TA180719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Last night unknown persons set afire Raymonda al-Tawil's car, which was parked near her house in Ramallah. The police have begun investigating the case. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that it is possible the car was burned because of tension prevailing in the territories as a result of the upcoming PNC meeting in Amman.

Gaza University Professor Murdered

TA180724 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] A professor and religious leader at the Islamic University in Gaza was shot to death outside his home yesterday morning, hospital and university officials said.

The officials identified him as Isma'il Khatib, 39, dean of the university's Arabic language college.

The officials quoted witnesses as saying two men, who appeared to be Arabs, were seen running away after shooting Khatib in the neck outside his home at about 0600 [local time].

There was no clear motive for the shooting, the officials said. The university and student associations issued statements condemning the attack.

Khatib was pronounced dead at Gaza's (Shifa) Hospital.

Two political murders have been reported in the Gaza Strip since September. A Syrian-backed faction claimed responsibility for the October 26 killing of a businessman in the town of (Darabiya). The mayor of Rafah was shot dead on September 14. The case is unsolved.

Grenade Aimed at IDF, Not Ramallah Mayor

TA191428 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1421 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Here are some more details on the hand grenade incident near the Ramallah municipal building: An initial investigation by the security forces shows that the grenade was apparently aimed at the two soldiers who were on guard at the entrance to the town hall. The grenade hit a car parked opposite the front of the building, and then rolled under the appointed mayor's car. It did not explode, and the soldiers thought it was merely a rock. One of the soldiers pursued the assailant, but failed to capture him.

The mayor, Moshe Biton, is an officer who was appointed mayor of Ramallah by the Civilian Administration. At the time of the incident he was in his office.

Our correspondent Gil Ronen reports that searches in the area are continuing.

Curfew Imposed

TA191855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The acting mayor of Ramallah, Moshe Biton, today survived an assassination attempt without injury. A grenade was thrown at his car outside the municipality this afternoon, but failed to explode. Ramallah was put under curfew as security forces launched a search for the assailant. Biton is an officer in the Civil Administration and is serving in place of the deposed mayor of the town.

Galilee Arab Villagers Hold Rally 17 Nov

TA171646 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1625 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Nov (ITIM) — Despite heavy rain, hundreds of Jews and Arabs gathered near the villages of Bar'am at noon today to mark the 36th anniversary of the expulsion of Iqrit and Bar'am residents from their villages.

The rally and demonstration were organized by the Iqrit and Bar'am Youth Organization. The rally was preceded by an impressive demonstration during which signs were put up, which demanded the return of the Iqrit and Bar'am residents to their villages and to their land. The demonstrators also chanted slogans against racism and discrimination.

The rally was held in a church in the village. Speeches were delivered by the priest of the church, as well as by representatives of the uprooted villagers, Knesset Member Tawfiq Zayyad, and HADASH Secretary 'Uzi Burstein. Solidarity telegrams sent by the Central Committees of MAPAM, the Citizens Rights Movement, Shinuy, Peace Now, and other organizations were also read. A group from the neighboring kibbutz of Bar'am also attended the rally.

Return to Villages Sought

TA181606 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1433 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Galilee Heights, 18 Nov (ITIM) — The uprooted villagers of Iqrit and Bar'am have renewed their struggle to return to their deserted villages.

The leaders of the villagers told ITIM correspondent Shlomo Hadad that this time they are preparing for a long struggle which will force the authorities to return the villagers to their homes. They are planning a series of measures intended to impress the public and compel the government to revoke its decision not to allow them to return to their villages.

Yesterday they held a protest march from the Sasa intersection to Moshav Meron, holding up signs calling for steps to correct the wrong done them. "There is a national unity government now; it is impossible to evade a decision on this issue anymore," the uprooted villagers claimed.

A large police force guarded the march of the uprooted villagers, for fear of violent reactions by residents in the area.

WAQF, Temple Mount Guard Arrested for Incitement

TA180717 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0615 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 17 Nov (ITIM) — A WAQF guard was arrested on 16 November on suspicion of distributing inflammatory pamphlets against Israel on the Temple Mount.

On 16 November policemen saw some youths distributing pamphlets that called for an armed struggle against Israel and spoke in favor of the PLO.

When the youths were interrogated, they accused the WAQF guard of giving them the pamphlets.

The southern district police spokesman last night said that the guard was arrested for questioning.

Background to Establishment of Arab Bank Analyzed

TA191355 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Nov 84 p 7

[Second of a series of commentaries by Dani Rubinstein: "How a Bank May Be Established in Nabulus"]

[Text] Over a year ago, when it became clear the West Bank and Gaza Strip had come to an economic standstill, Secretary of State George Shultz stated that something must be done "to improve the quality of life in the territories." Already at that time there were reports from the West Bank saying that there were thousands of unemployed academics who could not find a job in Jordan or other Arab countries because of the oil crisis. On the other hand, the slowdown in the Israeli economy and the restrictions imposed by the Israeli Government also harmed the economy in the territories.

In those days a report prepared by Dr Meron Benvenisti was published in Israel and in the United States; the report stated that approximately $66 million allocated by the U.S. Administration to the West Bank for development projects through various U.S. relief organizations had not always achieved its purpose, but had been diverted by the Israeli Government to purposes that relieved its own budget in the territories. The report stressed that the Israeli Government rejected most of the proposals raised by these organizations to develop sources of employment in agriculture and industry and urged them to invest their money in services, such as water pipelines for drinking water, a drainage system, and health care, which the government had intended to finance. Benvenisti caused much dismay among U.S. diplomats by proving to them that Israel was actually using these funds more to fatten its own budget than for the purpose they were meant for — the development of the territories.

Against this background, Prof Steve Cohen of New York began meeting with U.S. Jewish and Arab businessmen to organize a joint effort to promote economic initiatives in the territories. When Prime Minister Shim'on Peres visited the United States, Professor Cohen arranged for him to meet the group, and they talked about its activities, which, up until then, were rather limited. One activity involved the preparation of a survey of health care in the West Bank. Some Likud members were dismayed at this group, and Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was quoted as voicing his amazement that just when Israel's economy is at its worst, there are Jews in the United States who are worried about the economic situation of the Arabs in the territories, of all things.

Howard Squadron [U.S. Jewish community leader] reacted to this in a *JERUSALEM POST* interview last week saying that he and his friends want to show that Jews and Arabs in the United States can work together and cooperate, and just as U.S. Jews have a special feeling for Israel, the Arabs in the United States have such a feeling for their brothers. Squadron stressed that all projects which the group is dealing with will be concluded with the help of the Israeli and Jordanian Governments, and with the approval of the U.S. Administration. To discuss these projects, several notables from the territories were invited to the United States a few weeks ago, among whom were: Dr Salah Bustami of Nabulus, chairman of the Medical Association in the West Bank; Ibrahim Matar, a Jerusalem agronomist working at the Christian-American Association which carries out relief and educational projects in the West Bank; Hisham 'Awartani, an agricultural expert and lecturer at Al-Najah University; Dr Shawqi Harb of Ramallah; Ibrahim 'Abd al-Hadi, head of the Arab Insurance Company in Nabulus; and Ibrahim Daqqaq, an East Jerusalem engineer who was one of the National Guidance Committee leaders. The Americans also wanted to invite Mustafa al-Natshah, the deposed mayor of Hebron, but the Israeli authorities would not permit him to leave. From the political viewpoint, most of the notables can be considered close to Fatah, and against this background some disputes were raised in the West Bank (why were precisely these people invited?, etc.).

What are the projects under discussion? From conversations and various reports published, it can be said that the talks in the United States centered on the establishment of an Arab bank in the West Bank, a hospital in Ramallah, an initiative to establish a cement factory in Hebron, the development of quarries, a fruit juice factory, and perhaps also a pharmaceutical factory.

Meanwhile, important developments linked with the territories also occurred within the Israeli Government. Former Defense Minister Moshe Arens appointed Shlomo Goren coordinator of activities, a man experienced in security affairs, who immediately after taking office voiced his opinion that the development projects, which previously were neglected or shelved, should be carried out. Several months after Goren's appointment, elections were held and Yitzhaq Rabin became defense minister. His appointment led to the speeding up of some matters connected with "improving the quality of life in the territories." These matters are a mixture of economic, social, and political activities. So far they have hardly been crowned with success. The Israeli Government has been making attempts for a long time now to find Arab mayors to replace the Israeli officials and officers who head the four large West Bank towns (Nabulus, Hebron, Ramallah, and Al-Birah). There are no suitable candidates. The persons the Israeli Government is interested in, are not ready to take the job, and those who are interested in the job, are not wanted by the government.

Another complex affair is the attempt to establish an Arab bank in the West Bank. This is, actually, an old idea. I have the draft of an agreement which was signed in August 1967 between an official delegation of Jordanian bank representatives headed by 'Abdallah Bushnak, deputy manager of the "Arab Bank"; and the Israeli representatives, A. Shim'oni, B. Yequti'eli, D. Bavli, and Z. Sher. The agreement deals with the resumption of activity by Jordanian bank branches in Jerusalem and the West Bank, under the laws in the territories and under the joint supervision of the central bank in Amman and the Israeli bank supervisor. The agreement did not go into effect because the Israeli Government (at the recommendation of Moshe Dayan) rejected it, as did the Jordanian Government. Since then additional attempts to operate Arab banks in the territories have been made, but these too failed, with the exception of a small bank in Gaza, which has been forbidden to deal in foreign currency; it, however, operates on a small scale and is insignificant. It is true that 28 branches of Israeli banks are operating in the territories, but their activity is very limited. the Arab residents have no confidence in Israeli banks, and the loans they grant are very small.

With the ecouragement of the Israeli Military Government, a group of businessmen from Nabulus headed by Zafir al-Masri is now trying to set up a local bank and the discussions on this are being coordinated with the Jordanian authorities. Just as in the past, the main stumbling block is the need for full Israeli control over such a bank and, because hardly any foreign banks operate in Israel (for reasons that cannot be specified here), it will also be difficult to operate an Arab bank which in some respects will enjoy a special status.

Several measures have recently been taken in the West Bank to alleviate the monetary situation. For example, the amount Arabs are allowed to bring in through the Jordan River bridges has been raised to $5,000 per person. Last week, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin unhesitatingly authorized the Bethlehem Municipality to bring in $700,000 it received in donations from Saudi Arabia. These examples attest to the change in the attitude of the Israeli Government which in the last few years had tried to limit as much as possible the amount of money brought by Arabs into the territories (this was justified by security reasons and by arguing that the money came from the PLO, an argument which was true at times).

Now it is permitted to bring in money, and projects such as a hospital in Ramallah, a country club in Nabulus, playing courts in Bethlehem, and a market in Halhul are being approved. The restoration of the bank in Nabulus may even be authorized as well. All this will only slightly stir the economic situation in the territories but will not rescue it from its prolonged paralysis.

Labor Members Want Hebron Hills in 'Settlement Map'

TA192006 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Some Labor Party members have expressed their demand to include the Judaean Desert and the southern slopes of the Hebron Hills within the Alignment's settlement map. Only Gush Emunim settlements can be found in that region at present. Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz believes that the Labor Party should stipulate a clearly marked, precise security plan for the eastern sector rather than suffice with only general principles.

Golan Druze Visit Syria for Medical Care

TA200820 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Qiryat Shemona — Israel yesterday allowed two Golan Heights Druse to cross the border into Syria to receive medical care there, an act condemned by pro-Israel Golan Druse. Sulayman Ahmad al-Makht of Majdal Shams and Abu 'Abdallah al-Kish of Buq 'Ata crossed the border in the Al-Qunaytirah area accompanied by International Red Cross representatives, en route to Damascus.

Israel's supporters among the local Druse said that in allowing the passage Israel had succumbed to the pressure of anti-Israel extremists who have been demanding that they be allowed to receive medical care in Syria for years.

In the past two years Israel has forbidden Druse to cross into Syria. Before the Golan was annexed, however, some Druse students and teachers had been allowed to study in Syria.

Peres Proposes Foreign Investor Develop Tabah

TA201034 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Nov 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Israel, together with Egypt, will attempt to find an investor who will purchase the rights to operate and develop the Tabah tourist area. The prime minister's proposal regarding this issue will soon be presented before the political-security Cabinet.

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is holding contacts on this issue with Jewish multimillionaire Armand Hammer, who recently visited Israel. In discussions held lately in the prime minister's office, a proposal was consolidated according to which Tabah will be transferred to joint Israeli-Egyptian management, to be implemented through a foreign investor, without any changes being made in the legal status of the area. According to this proposal, the arrangement will be implemented parallel to the opening of the talks between Israel and Egypt, in which a conciliator will try to make the sides agree on the future of Tabah. According to Peres' proposal, Israel and Egypt will agree beforehand that if the conciliator's efforts fail, the sides will agree within a set time to transfer the issue to arbitration. The arbitrator's ruling will have to be accepted by the two sides unconditionally.

Contrary to the stand of the Foreign Ministry and some Likud ministers, Peres and the Labor ministers are not insisting that the talks be held in Jerusalem and Cairo. Foreign Affairs Minister Shamir and officials in his ministry are also against changing the Israeli stand on transferring the Tabah dispute to arbitration, because they believe the direct negotiation process has not yet been exhausted.

Jerusalem is presently awaiting Egypt's reaction to Israel's proposal that the discussions on interim arrangements in Tabah be held in Beersheba. Israel has raised the proposal — formerly rejected by Egypt — that a unit of the MFO be deployed in the Tabah area. This proposal was discussed last week during the meeting of the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee in Rome.

Likud, Alignment Differ on Tabah Talks Venue

TA191959 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The Inner Cabinet will soon debate a proposal to station a multinational force in Tabah with the area under joint supervision by Israel and Egypt. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that this is an interim solution, until the territorial issue is resolved through international arbitration. The two major partners in the coalition, the Alignment and the Likud, agree that it is necessary to begin negotiations with the Egyptians on the temporary stationing of a multinational force there, but the Likud demands that the negotiations be held in Jerusalem, whereas the Alignment is prepared to compromise and settle on another place.

[Begin Ronen videotape] The Likud believes that the Tabah negotiations should be conducted only in Jerusalem and Cairo. The Alignment is prepared to hold the talks in a different place as well. [end videotape]

Differences Exist on Role of Joint Economic Group

TA191748 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Nov 84 p 5

[Text] At the opening of the economic talks between Israel and the United States today, it has been learned that the two countries differ in their perceptions of the role and authority of the Joint Economic Development Group. This dispute is the reason why most of the meeting to be held today between the Israeli delegation, headed by Finance Ministry Director General 'Imanu'el Sharon, and the U.S. delegation, headed by Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Allen Wallis, will be devoted to attempting to reach a compromise on the group's tasks.

While Israel wants the group to identify the fields in which the United States may assist economic growth, the U.S. Administration wants the group to impose some sort of control over the measures adopted by the Israeli Government to restore its economy and eventually also to determine the scope of economic aid Israel will receive in 1986.

Navon Returns From Visit to U.S., Canada

TA181800 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1720 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Ben-Gurion Airport, 18 Nov (ITIM) — Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon warned this afternoon that any further cuts in the education budget could cause irreparable damage. Speaking with the ITIM correspondent at Ben Gurion Airport upon his return from Canada — where he participated in the annual meeting of the U.S. and Canada Jewish Federation council — Mr Navon said that the time has come for the Cabinet to decide on its priorities.

In Canada, Navon met with the deputy prime minister, the minister of state for external relations, the minister in charge of education [title as received], and with members of the Middle Eastern department of the Canadian External Relations Ministry. He particularly noted the need for stronger scientific and technological ties between the two countries — a subject which is presently important in Israel in light of the urgent need to develop sophisticated, advanced technology and industry.

FRG Education Minister Arrives on Official Tour

TA181805 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1730 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 18 Nov (ITIM) — FRG Education and Science Minister Ms Dorothee Wilms arrived this afternoon for an official 1-week visit, and was received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Labor and Social Welfare Minister Moshe Qatzav. The guest, who is in charge of vocational training in her country — a field which in Israel falls under the Labor Ministry — told the ITIM reporter that vocational training is the basic prerequisite for a person to find a job. However, it still does not guarantee a job at all costs, and today it is necessary to enhance and enrich vocational training.

Ms Wilms said this in response to a question about the extent to which vocational training plays a role in unemployemnt problems.

The main purpose of the visit will be the minister's participation in the inauguration of a vocational training center in Holon, established with the help of the German construction branch and the Education and Science Ministry.

The guest said that as part of her job, she has been maintaining close contact with the Labor Ministry for 8 or 9 years, and noted that the two ministries maintain close cooperation on vocational and technological training in the age of modern technology. "I believe that we, too, have a lot to learn in your country precisely in this sphere," she said.

The guest will meet here with Education Minister Mr Yitzhaq Navon, tour the Weizman Institute for Science, will be the guest of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and will hold a number of working meetings with Minister Moshe Qatzav.

These deliberations will also be attended by Deputy Labor Minister MR Menahem Porush and top ministry officials.

This is Ms Wilms' first visit to Israel. She will also visit Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, will meet with Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel, and meet with the chairman of the Knesset Education Committee. She will also tour Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the north of Israel, and the Christian holy sites in the Galilee.

Science Minister on S. America, U.S., Europe Trip

TA181802 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1715 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 18 Nov (ITIM) — Science and Technology [title as received] Minister Mr Gid'on Pat left today for a long tour of South America, the United States, and Europe.

He will go on an Israel Bonds mission for 3 weeks, and will confer with, among others, the foreign minister of Uruguay, with the economic ministers of Brazil and Argentina, and with the French science minister.

Mr Pat told the ITIM correspondent at the airport that it may be embarrassing to answer what happened to the sea-to-sea canal project, the so-called Med-Dead project that currently falls within the Science and Development Ministry's jurisdiction.

"So far I have not encountered questions on this from Bonds donors, but I will be able to explain that at the present we are facing more urgent priorities," the minister said.

Tourism Director Also To Head Cairo Office

TA190735 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Nov 84 p 3

[Hayim Shapiro report]

[Excerpt] Tourism Ministry Director-General Refa'el Farber is to double as director of the Israel Government Tourist Office in Cairo, Minister Avraham Sharir told *THE JERUSALEM POST* last night.

Sharir said that he had appointed Farber to the post because a diplomatic approach to tourism between the two countries is required. Later, he said, when the situation becomes more normal, he would place a tourism professional in the post.

RAKAH Delegation Leaves for Romania

TA171640 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1617 GMT 17 Nov 84

["Announcement by the HADASH Spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Nov (ITIM) — A RAKAH delegation has left for the 13th Romanian Communist Party congress which opens on Monday, 19 November.

The delegation includes the secretary of RAKAH's Central Committee, David Khinin, and the head of the local council of the village of Yafa, As'ad Yusuf. MAPAM and Labor Party delegations will also participate in this congress.

HADASH Delegation Leaves for USSR 18 Nov

TA171657 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1640 GMT 17 Nov 84

["Announcement by the HADASH Spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Nov (ITIM) — A Jewish-Arab delegation representing the HADASH executive is leaving for the Soviet Union tomorrow morning.

The delegation was invited by the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace and will include a member of the Histadrut Central Committee, Jamal Musa; a member of the Agricultural Center; a member of Kibbutz Yad Hanna, Eli'ezer Fayler; the head of the Al-Taiyiba local council, 'Abd al-Latif; an activist in the "There Is a Limit" movement, Robi 'Aguli; and others.

The HADASH executive also decided that the delegation will include a member of Kibbutz Ma'agan Mikha'el, Moti Ish-Ya'ir, but a kibbutz rally decided a week ago by a 12-vote majority that Ish-Ya'ir must not travel to the Soviet Union, as "this would harm Soviet Jews."

The delegation will remain in the USSR for about 10 days, where it will hold meetings with the boards of directors of various public organizations and will visit several cities.

'Political Sources' on 'Arafat Visit to UK

TA191850 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpts] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to visit London in late December to help launch his biography, according to a London-based Arabic newspaper. The visit is said to have the tacit approval of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Political sources in Jerusalem say that 'Arafat's visit to London will not contribute to the Middle East peace process. The sources also told reporter David Essing that the PLO chief is not even very welcome in the Arab world today.

Travel 'Unreasonable'

TA200621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Israel Embassy in London says he does not believe PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will be granted a visa to visit England. The spokesman said it would be unreasonable for the British Government to allow 'Arafat into the country, while it is asking for international cooperation to fight terrorism. The British Foreign Office is still studying 'Arafat's request to enter the country to promote his autobiography.

New British Envoy Comments on Bilateral Trade

TA191852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] In his first public speech since his arrival, Britain's Ambassador to Israel William Squire says the future of bilateral trade agreements depends on a healthy commitment by both sides to those agreements. Squire was speaking in Tel Aviv to the Anglo-Israeli Commonwealth Association:

[Begin Squire recording] As you know, we are your biggest market in the world after the United States. You are our thirtieth most important trading partner, just after Egypt which has 10 times your population. A lot of jobs in Israel depend on the market for textile and agricultural products in Britain. We are very conscious of that.

Equally, we are conscious that jobs in Britain depend on sales to Israel. So although we understand the reasons why the Israeli Government recently had to restrict imports of consumer goods and other items, we hope this is a one-time decision, and that the measure will not be extended, nor repeated. [end recording]

Lebanese Demonstrate Following Shi'ite's Murder

TA201017 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] There is a commercial strike as well as demonstrations in Shi'ite-populated towns in Lebanon, in protest against the murder of Imam 'Abdallah (al-'Amin) from the Al-Sawwanah village in southern Lebanon. The strike was initiated by the Amal organization. The organization's leader, Nabih Birri, accused

Israel of responsibility for the murder, saying that the act will compel the Lebanese Government to reconsider its participation in the Al-Naqurah talks.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the imam was shot last Wednesday when standing on the balcony of his house. He was transferred in critical condition to the UN force's hospital in Al-Naqurah and died yesterday.

Israeli sources rejected any connection between the security forces and the murder.

Substantial Drop in Visits by Lebanese Noted

TA181558 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1450 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 18 Nov (ITIM) — A substantial drop in the number of Lebanese visiting Israel has recently been registered.

The IDF's liaison unit told ITIM correspondent Shlomo Hadad that the number of visitors from Labanon to Israel has dropped to approximately 5,000 a month. In the opinion of the liaison unit's personnel, this is a result of the new policy according to which the IDF no longer encourages inhabitants to visit Israel, and in some cases even prevents visits if the visitors are unknown to the security forces, or if the visitors do not have the necessary documents.

Since the Peace for Galilee war, approximately 200,000 inhabitants of Lebanon have visited Israel; 44,000 between January and October, compared to 77,000 in the same period last year — that is, a 40-percent drop.

Lebanese tourism to Israel is based primarily on holiday visits to relatives, or to flee terrorism. In some cases Leabnese brides and bridegrooms prefer to spend their honeymoon in Israeli hotels. The IDF's liaison unit has detailed information indicating that a rather substantial number of Lebanese prefer to stay in Nahariyya and Tiberias hotels. Others rent apartments in private houses in the Bat Yam area. It has also been reported that many Lebanese prefer to fly to Europe through Ben-Gurion airport, after obtaining the required license from the El Al branch at Rosh Haniqra.

Talks With Poland on Resumption of Trade

TA191654 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Nov 84 pp 1, 11

[Inge Deutschkron report]

[Text] Discussions concerning the resumption of direct trade between Israel and Poland have begun, according to remarks made in an interview with *MA'ARIV* in Tel Aviv by the director of the Polish bank "P.K.O.," Dr Stanislaw Kovacz.

Dr Kovacz noted: "The worst is behind us, we are marching in the right direction and we are on the verge of opening a new chapter." It has been learned that the issue was recently discussed by the Israeli and Polish foreign ministers, Yitzhaq Shamir and Stefan Olszowski, when they met at the UN General Assembly in New York. Bilateral trade in the last few years has been conducted indirectly, via Vienna.

"We must formulate a long-term plan," Dr Kovacz noted and emphasized that trade would be conducted on an exchange basis. The Polish bank director, who has worked in the branch on Allenby Street in Tel Aviv since 1983, noted that there are ample opportunities. Poland has a great deal to offer: machinery for heavy industry, assorted types of industrial products, coal, copper products, and so forth. Israel can sell electronic items, chemicals, citrus fruit, and other products to Poland.

Dr Kovacz disclosed that he has recently held "very good talks" with the industry and trade minister and the Bank of Israel governor. It has been learned from knowledgeable Israeli sources that a high-level delegation of Israeli experts recently visited Poland at the invitation of the Polish Government in order to purchase coal. The discussions have so far been a failure, however, because the prices asked for by the Poles appeared excessive to the Israelis. The Polish officials proposed that Israeli ships anchor at the Port of Gdansk, on the shore of the Baltic Sea.

If the two countries reach an agreement on direct trade (similar to the agreements signed with Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania which are members of CEMA, the economic organization of the Communist countries) Israel may expand its exports of citrus fruit to the Soviet Union via Poland.

Briefs

Defense Ministry Appointment — Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has appointed Arye Simhoni as head of the Youth and NAHAL Department in the Defense Ministry, to replace Mr Levi Mann who is returning to live on a kibbutz. [Excerpt] [*Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1505 GMT 16 Nov 84 TA*]

National Insurance Institute Appointee — Nisim Barukh, formerly the Finance Ministry director general, will be the National Insurance Institute director general. The institute's board of directors approved the appointment a short time ago. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Barukh replaces Dani 'Azri'el, one of the last TAMI people in top government echelons. [Text] [*Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Nov 84 TA*]

Finance Ministry Appointment — The Cabinet today appointed a new commissioner for the State Revenues Administration, which has been vacant for about a year. The new commissioner is Yisra'el Baron. [Excerpt] [*Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Nov 84 TA*]

'Lagos Plan of Action' Blueprint for Africa

AB191058 Dakar PANA in English 1002 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Dakar, 19 Nov (PANA) — Africa's current blueprint for future or alternative strategies for socio-economic development, the "Lagos Plan of Action," LPA, needs intensified publicizing within the African Continent where there is "considerable ignorance about the plan."

It should also be popularized outside Africa while emphasizing that its final implementation is the responsibility of the African governments, because the plan encompasses a "shopping list" of the continent's problems for which solutions should be coordinated locally and internationally.

These observations were made by the executive director of the African Regional Centre for Technology, ARCT, Dr Babatunde Thomas in an exclusive interview with the PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, PANA, in Dakar.

He said the LPA has not been well understood and many people just criticized it on generalities. He declared: "If anyone reads the plan every closely, a lot of specific, qualitative, and programatic framework is found in it with short-, medium-, and long-term targets." Dr Thomas felt confident that in collaboration with sister institutions like ARCT, the African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and Manufacturing, the African Regional Centre for Standardization, and the African Institute for Higher Technical Training, PANA could popularize LPA as well as contribute towards the implementation of some program elements in it.

Dr Thomas told PANA that since the LPA was adopted in Lagos in 1980, there was a lot going on within Africa on a national level, in an effort to implement the plan. These could be publicized by PANA through the organization's member national news agencies, NNAS, he added.

He observed that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, ECA, and the Organization of African Unity, OAU, had promoted various activities in respect of LPA, while the industrial development decade for Africa had attempted to promote the implementation of some of the program elements in the industry chapter of the LPA.

African heads of state, Dr Thomas recalled, had set the year 2000 as the period by which time some program elements in the LPA should bear concrete results. He added that the international community was expected to assist Africa in solving many of its problems articulated in the LPA.

Dr Thomas recently attended two international conferences in Swaziland and Canada on the LPA, where relevant chapters of the document were examined. With him at the Canada conference were Kenya's minister for labor, Dr Robert Ouko, and Tanzania's minister of state in the Office of the President, Mr Amir Jamal. Dr Thomas said the two international conferences on the LPA concluded on a "very positive note," while realizing that its final implementation was a "formidable task" that would cost 250 billion dollars.

The executive director singled out food crisis as the major problem Africa was facing though "we have ready solutions, but for problems of management and infrastructure." He said much research work was going on in the continent and this needed coordination. He said his center had published an inventory of African national science and technology focal points that indicated the resources and types of research activities going on. "Economic survival of the African region will depend on collective self-reliance based on sub-regional and continental groupings," Dr Thomas retiterated, adding "so far, an absence of political will has led to the declining interest in regional cooperation."

Dr Thomas disclosed that his center was working with the United Nations Development Program, UNDP and some other international agencies on a program called "Tok-Ten," (Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals) to encourage African scholars and scientists abroad to return hope and help the continent. The same program had been successfully applied in India and Turkey, he said. He said recent advancements in the area of bio-technology in the developed countries has made it imperative for African nations to work together. With bio-tech, Dr Thomas explained, many tropical primary products can now be produced in research laboratories.

Summit of Portuguese-Speaking Nations Posponed

AB171108 Paris AFP in English 0756 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Bissau, Nov 17 (AFP) — A summit of Africa's five Portuguese-speaking countries, scheduled for December 15-20 in Sao Tome, has been postponed until next February, a Guinea-Bissau official said here Friday. The decision was made by the leaders of the five states when they met at this week's summit conference of the Organization of African Unity, the officials said. The five countries are Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Telecommunication Conference Agrees on Links

MB171235 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Member countries of the Southern and Eastern Africa Telecommunications Conference have agreed in Lusaka to establish intercountry telephone links.

According to a communique issued at the 18th regional conference in the country, member nations made recommendations such as the need for concerted efforts to maximize the use of existing telecommunications facilities. The conference also recommended the setting up of a [word indistinct] working group for the region.

The meeting was attended by delegates from Zambia, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zaire, Zimbabwe, and representatives from international organizations.

ALGERIA

FLN's Messaadia, SDAR President Meet

LD190957 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo and the official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, yesterday received Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president and secretary general of the Polisario Front, at the FLN Headquarters. They reviewed the latest developments in the region and developments in the international and African arenas.

EL MOUJAHID Welcomes SDAR's Admission to OAU

PM151200 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 13 Nov 84 p 1

[Ahmed Fattani commentary: "The OAU Reconciled With Itself"]

[Text] The SDAR yesterday took its seat in the OAU as the 51st state. For many observers the news was no surprise because it was expected. While this is a resounding victory for the Saharan guerrillas, it should also be said that it is an even greater victory for the OAU. This institution, which some well known voices had hurriedly pronounced dead, has just finally shaken itself out of its deadlock. It is resurfacing with the proud boast that it will correct its own past mistakes. In an atmosphere of unity the OAU has not failed in its vocation and its historical responsibility: the liberation of African people. It is for all these reasons, therefore, that it is right to hail this Afro-Saharan victory as a victory for courage, level-headedness, and fidelity to principles. Why?

The SDAR's presence in the OAU is an eloquent act of justice to a liberation cause to which millions of Africans remain sensitive since, at some time in their history, they experienced the exploitation of the Western countries' colonialism. It is true that, before experiencing this important point in their history, the SDAR leaders did not in any way sacrifice their spirit of unity with their continental organization. They showed great diplomacy — by voluntarily withdrawing twice to prevent a split in the OAU. The split with which some African capitals then treacherously threatened it — capitals led astray by the specious arguments put forward by Rabat to justify the occupation of the Sahara — did not happen. Several conclusions can be drawn from this event.

1. Africa has for the first time shown unanimity on the Saharan affair. Has it not just taken a stance on a problem that had hitherto caused dissent, which some non-African powers used as a pretext to interfere in the continent's affairs? Aside from Morocco, which has announced its withdrawal from the organization, and Mobutu's Zaire — apparently still grateful for the aid which Hassan II gave him during the Shaba troubles — no other African state has threatened to walk out of the OAU.

2. It is an upsurge of awareness which has enabled the African leaders to restore collegiality and halt all the tendencies to divide Africa and all the organizational struggles which the OAU has frequently experienced.

3. A large and unprecedented quorum has opened the pan-African organization's doors to the Polisario guerrillas and enabled SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz to take his place among his African peers. Well before the summit took place many African heads of state asked for rights to be restored to the Saharan people, who have been waging an armed struggle since 1973.

4. What is the reason for this unanimity? The fact is that the African heads of state who voted for the famous Resolution 104 felt cheated and angered by Morocco's delaying tactics. The latter has always remained deaf to Africa's appeal, rejecting any direct negotiations with the Saharans. Did not the six OAU Implementation Committee countries in their report blame Morocco for their failure? It was clear, therefore, that in the absence of any tangible result the SDAR should be allowed to take its place in the OAU. This is what has happened as a result of the Moroccan Government's unwillingness to negotiate directly with the SDAR Government. Like it or not, this result shows Morocco's present diplomatic isolation on the African stage.

LIBYA

Reportage on Al-Qadhdhafi Visit to Malta

Statement on Chad

NC191449 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Valletta, Nov 19 (AFP) — Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today said he was totally committed to the Franco-Libyan agreement to withdraw from Chad and said any remaining Libyan soldiers in the country were in the process of returning home. Speaking to reporters here on the third day of a visit to Malta, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi declared that "Libya will not send any more airplanes or tanks or soldiers to Chad," where Libyan forces have been backing rebels battling the government of Hissein Habre.

When asked about French assertions that up to 1,200 Libyan soldiers were still in Chad one week after Paris and Tripoli announced the completion of their mutual military disengagement from the country, he affirmed: "I cannot say if there are any Libyan elements on their way from Chad to Libya or if they have already arrived in Libya." "But I totally reject any information whose source is the United States and the CIA," he added in apparent reference to reports that a major Libyan contingent was still stationed in the northern Chadian region of Tibesti. "It is a problem of logistics," he said. But he added that Libya was "totally committed on the other hand to support the Transitional Government of National Union," the opposition movement headed by former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei.

Turning to his surprise meeting in Crete Thursday with French President Francois Mitterrand, Col al-Qadhdhafi said the two men had come to a "real understanding on all points of conflict." The Libyan leader went on to say that France was clearly "among the friends of Libya," adding that everything between the two countries was "running according to the agreement." He refused to comment on the resumption yesterday of French reconnaissance flights over Chad or rumours that French forces might be sent back to the country if Libya did not fulfill its end of the mutual pullout accord. But he said that "if any French troops returned to Chad, it would be an obvious violation of the agreement" and a "great violation of Chadian independence."

Today Col al-Qadhdhafi accused Washington of trying to alter the situation in Chad in order to place a nuclear base in the country and "install monitoring stations in the Chadian mountains to listen to Africa." Citing Libyan security concerns he said his government would send troops back to Chad if "any foreign troops" entered the country. "Then Libya will have priority rights to get into this country," he said.

Text of Joint Communique

LD192141 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Tripoli 19 Nov (JANA) — An Arab Libyan-Maltese joint communique was released in Tripoli and Valletta on the visit paid by the brother leader of the revolution to the Republic of Malta. This is the text of the communique:

At the invitation of the president of the Republic of Malta, Agatha Barbara, and the prime minister, Mr Dom Mintoff, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution paid an official and friendly visit to the Republic of Malta during the period from 23 to 25 Safar 1405 Hegira, corresponding to 16 to 18 November 1984. He was accorded a warm official and popular welcome expressing the relations of strong friendship between the two countries and geographical and historical ties between the Arab nation and the friendly Maltese people.

During this visit official talks were held between the leaders of the two countries in an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding. They touched upon the development of bilateral relations, and exchanged views on the current international situation, particularly, the situation in the Mediterranean. Concerning bilateral relations, the two sides voiced their satisfaction with the level reached in the relations of friendship, cooperation, and solidarity between the two countries in all fields and domains for the good of their common interests.

The Arab Libyan side expressed its appreciation for the achievements of the Republic of Malta under the leadership of the Labor Party in the development of the country and the consolidation of its economic situation, and in emphasizing Malta's neutrality and removing it from the domination of international blocs and alliances. The Maltese side on its part expressed appreciation for the backing and assistance of the Arab Libyan people to the Maltese people in various fields.

On the other hand, a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries was signed during this visit, a matter that constitutes a particularly important step in strengthening friendship and promoting cooperation between them.

The two sides expressed their determination to maintain the strong relations between their respective countries at all levels, and to seek to strengthen by all means the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and peoples. Both sides reaffirmed their conviction in the importance of the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations. The two sides also affirmed their adherence to the principles and objectives aimed at liberating peoples from all forms of colonialism, and at promoting friendly relations so as to realize the common good of all states, lessen international tension, secure disarmament, reinforce regional cooperation, and back up efforts to bring progress to the developing countries.

Concerning the peace and security of the Mediterranean Sea, the two sides reemphasized the importance of making this sea neutral and sparing the region the danger of nuclear terrorism and the terror of foreign fleets and bases. In this respect, the two sides expressed their deep concern over the repeated provocations on the part of the United States in violation of the sovereignty of the Jamahiriyah and its territorial integrity, which constitute a threat to international peace and security. The Maltese side has reaffirmed its support for the Jamahiriyah in its efforts to resist pressure and provocations.

The two sides recorded their deep satisfaction at the postiive results of the conference of foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries bordering the Mediterranean held for the first time in Valletta from 10 to 11 September 1984, considering that this meeting was a turning point in the efforts to turn the Mediterranean into a zone of peace, security and cooperation. They have agreed that the results gained through the September meeting should be preserved by means of future regional and international meetings. In this respect, the two sides are of the opinion that a meeting should be held in the first half of 1985 by the members of the Nonaligned Movement of the Mediterranean region in order to study issues related to the security and peace of the Mediterranean. The Arab Libyan side has expressed its support for proposals on the security of the Mediterranean Sea made by Malta at the Stockholm Conference on Disarmament in Europe. It has also expressed hopes that these proposals will meet with serious and positive consideration on the part of the concerned parties.

The two sides stressed the right of the Arab Libyan people to obtain an equitable compensation for all the damage it suffered due to the fascist war and other wars that took place on its territory. They also underlined Britain's moral and legal obligation to undertake rapid and efficient measures to clear Maltese ports from bombs and remains that still constitute a danger to vital development plans in Malta.

The Maltese side welcomed Arab African union between the Jamahiriyah and the Kingdom of Morocco as an important step for promoting cooperation and reinforcing security in the Mediterranean region.

They also expressed their support for the OAU initiative to resolve the Chadian problem and to achieve national reconciliation in Chad in accordance with the 1979 Lagos agreement.

The two sides affirmed their support and absolute backing for the armed struggle waged by the Arab Palestinian people to liberate all their territory and return to their land. They strongly condemned the attempts at liquidation and at seeking solutions of surrender in the region. The two sides also underlined their support for the peoples under colonialism and domination, and esepcially the people of South Africa. They condemned the policy of apartheid.

The two sides called for intensified efforts to raise the level and efficiency of the United Nations by amending its charter and by abolishing the right to veto, in realization of the principle of equity and equality between all states.

The two sides expressed their concern over the continuous economic and political practices of the industrialized countries that have led to the widening of the gap between North and South, and to more deterioration of the international situation.

The two sides exchanged views on Arab-European cooperation and they agreed on the importance of promoting it in a way that would contribute to the prosperity of the region and to setting up efficient cooperation between its peoples within a framework of mutual respect and common interest.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the results they achieved during this visit, which is a great step toward strengthening relations between the two friendly peoples and the peoples of the region at large.

The Arab Libyan side expressed its deep satisfaction over the extremely warm welcome accorded to it on the part of the peoples and Government of Malta. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution has extended an invitation to the president of the Republic, Agatha Barbara, and Prime Minister Dom Mintoff to visit the Jamahiriyah. They accepted this invitation with gratitude, and its date will be fixed later.

Friendship Treaty Signed

AB191730 Paris AFP in French 1637 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Valetta, 19 Nov (AFP) — Malta and Libya have signed a friendship treaty during Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's 3-day visit to the island, the leader of the Libyan revolution announced during a press conference he held before his departure from Valetta.

Col al-Qadhdhafi, who held several rounds of talks with Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, added that this treaty provides for "cooperation in all the fields: strategic, political, economic, and military." "Libya will help the Maltese Army to protect the island's security," he stated.

In a joint communique, the two countries expressed their "deep concern" over the presence of nuclear arms in the Mediterranean and the installation of cruise missiles in Comiso (Sicily). They also expressed their "deep concern over the (?several) American provocations against Libya's territorial integrity, which constitutes a danger for international peace and security."

Cables Thanks to Maltese President

LD191938 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has sent a telegram to Mrs Agatha Barbara, president of Malta, following his departure from Malta:

Mrs President of Malta, on leaving your friendly country I would like to express to you [word indistinct] and the delegation accompanying me our deep appreciation for the great [word indistinct] popular welcome we met with during our visit which has been crowned by the signing of a treaty of cooperation and frriendship between our two countries and fraternal peoples, a treaty that opens up new horizons for cooperation between us in various fields, and strengthens our [word indistinct] contributions to turning the Mediterranean Sea into a lake of security and peace built on justice, mutual respect, and equal cooperation between its peoples and countries.

I send my thanks to the prime minister and dear friend, Dom Mintoff, to you personally, to your colleagues in the Maltese Government, and to the friendly Maltese people who showed us their cordial and warm feelings and voiced their sense of unity of origin, history, future, and struggle. I wish you good health [words indsitinct] and I wish the friendly Maltese people more progress and prosperity.

[Signed] Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi

Returns From Malta

LD191948 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution returned today to the Jamahiriyah after a 3-day visit to Malta which ended with the signing of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Malta.

JANA Reports French President News Conference

LD171512 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Paris, Safar 24, November 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The French President Francois Mitterrand affirmed the significance of the meeting between the leader of the revolution and himself, attended by Greek prime minister in Crete yesterday. In a press conference held yesterday noon, he said that the relations between the two countries should take its normal course, pointing out that the diplomatic relations between the two countries were not severed despite all happenings.

The French president denied the U.S. and Western imperialist claims regarding an alleged Libyan military presence in Chad, describing that as far from reality. He emphasised that France and Jamahiriyah are still committed to the Tripoli agreement regarding Chad, and indicated his readiness to visit Jamahiriyah, and also welcomed the leader's visit to France.

Answering a question on whether he exposed himself to personal dangers by accepting to meet with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the president said: I am responsible for France's foreign policy, and, dialogue is more preferable to confrontation. Besides, France seeks to assist in the establishment of peace and the removal of the dangers of conflict in the Mediterranean.

USSR's Akhromeyev Receives Tabir in Moscow

LD201421 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Brigadier General 'Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, yesterday arrived in Moscow for a visit to the Soviet Union in response to an invitation from the chief of staff of the Soviet Armed Forces. Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of the staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, first deputy to the minister of defense, met Brigadier General 'Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir on his arrival at Sheremetyvo Airport. The deputy minister of defense and a number of senior officers of the Soviet land, naval, and air forces and members of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in the Soviet Union were at the airport to welcome him.

Hungarian Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

LD192215 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Tripoli 19 Nov (JANA) — Army General Lajos Czinege, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee and minister of defense, and the delegation accompanying him, left Tripoli this afternoon at the conclusion of a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Army General Lajos Czinege was given a high-level send-off at Tripoli international airport where Brigadier Mustafa al-Kharrubi, inspector general of the Arab Libyan Armed Forces, was at the forefront of those at hand to see him off. Taking part in the send-off were several officers of the Arab Libyan Armed Forces, and the Hungarian ambassador and staff of the Hungarian Embassy in Tripoli.

JANA Notes 7th Anniversary of Al-Sadat's 'Treason'

LD191623 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Safar, 19 Nov, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Today is the 7th anniversary of buried Al-Sadat's commitment of the big sin by carrying out the visit of humiliation and shame to occupied Palestine and meeting with the Zionist terrorists and kneeling under the Zionist flag despised and humiliated.

On November 19 of 1977, Al-Sadat had committed the greatest sin by recognizing the racial Zionist enemy and appropriating the Egyptian-Arab land to the Zionist terrorists to contaminate it and pave the way for the Zionist death train to go ahead to destroy and occupy Lebanon in accordance with a Zionist crusade plan aimed at destroying and eliminating completely the Arab nation. After seven years of such incident, nevertheless, the present regime in Egypt is still following the road of treason started off by Al-Sadat, by normalizing and promoting its relations with the Zionist invaders.

Thus, in terms of treason and submission Al-Sadat's regime is still existing, his substitutes in the oppressed Egyptian capital are following the same policy and approach. Not only that, they have ridiculed the Egyptian people by linking them with the American bases, and by pursuing the treaty of shame, the treaty that has seriously harmed national causes and the whole Arab nation.

On the day of the 7th anniversary of high treason, the Egyptian people and the Arab nation are invited to escalate struggle and revolution to purge this treacherous regime to free Egypt from its impact and to destroy the Camp David treaty.

MAURITANIA

Haydala Returns From OAU, Makes Statemen

LD170613 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, returned last night to the capital from Addis Ababa after taking part in the OAU summit. Following the welcoming ceremonies, the president gave a press conference. He stressed that the summit was successful because it was able to study all the problems of the African continent.

The president said the Saharan Arab Republic was granted its rightful place in the organization and Morocco and Zaire have withdrawn. His excellency the president expressed his hope that they will return to the organization, and added that the political solution that would settle the problem is direct dialogue between the two parties in the conflict, namely Morocco and the Polisario. Mauritania will spare no efforts to contribute to settling the conflict.

On the other hand, the president said that Africa is determined to confront tangibly and effectively the apartheid situation of South Africa and to speed the independence of Namibia.

Concerning the Middle East, the president said that the organization has honorably responded to the desire of the Arab countries and denounced the Zionist entity for its continuous disregard of the UN resolutions and its response with aggression and arrogance to all appeals that serve the Palestinians.

In conclusion, the president said the 20th summit of the OAU had the virtue of tackling the pressing economic problems of the African countries, particularly the question of debts, declining exchange rates, drought, and malnutrition. The summit showed a strong awareness of these problems, and the African countries will work to find suitable solutions to them by relying first and foremost on its own potential.

SUDAN

Foreign Minister Returns From OAU Summit

JN181024 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Khartoum Safar 24 (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman returned here yesterday from Addis Ababa where he attended the OAU 20th summit. In an arrival statement 'Uthman said all the summit resolutions this time were unanimously approved and that all the draft resolutions presented by Sudan delegation had won the admiration and satisfaction of delegates. This session was a calm one and was characterized with a spirit of respect among the participants, he said.

Sudan had called for extending the mandate of the implementation committee on the Western Sahara dispute for another year to allow a chance for more dialogue and to give room for more pressures on the parties to the conflict along the way for finding a solution to the problem, he said.

He said the summit had adopted a Sudanese draft resolution on the question of Chad. The summit had urged African states not to restore diplomatic ties with the state of Israel until after the latter withdraws from the Arab territories it occupies and until the Palestinian independent state is established under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, he further said.

He said some African states had justified their dealings with South Africa by referring to their historical and geographical ties with that country. The summit had approved those justifications and warned other African states not to deal with the racist Pretoria regime, he said.

He said the summit had decided to hold an economic conference in continuation of the Lagos summit adding that conference had dedicated a complete day of talks for economic problems. 'Uthman hailed the African leaders commitment to the unity of the organization and described the session as successful.

TUNISIA

Mzali Receives Libyan Officials 17 Nov

LD171555 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Mohamed Mzali, Tunisian prime minister and minister of the interior, today received Janor al-Khawaylidi al-Humaydi, assistant commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, at the Government Palace. He was accompanied by Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation.

Following the meeting, Maj al-Khawaylidi al-Humaydi made a statement in which he said that he conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his best wishes to President Bourguiba for a speedy recovery and for continued good health so that he may continue to lead the march of the Tunisian people toward prosperity. He added that his discussion with Mohamed Mzali was extremely useful and fruitful and had touched on the distinguished and excellent relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to develop them. He stated that a timetable was agreed to for holding bilateral meetings, among which a supreme joint committee session will hopefully be convened before the end of this year.

The meeting was attended by Beji es-Sebsi, Tunisian foreign minister; el-Mezri Chekir, minister attached to the prime minister for civil service and administrative reform; and Mohamed Jenifane, Tunisian higher representative [as heard] to Libya.

Caid es-Sebsi on Addis Ababa OAU Summit

LD161824 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Mr Beji Caid es-Sebsi, chairman of the Tunisian delegation to the OAU summit in Addis Ababa, in a statement to a TAP correspondent, said that since the beginning of the summit, the general feeling among the participating delegation was the necessity of saving the OAU. He pointed out that the withdrawal of Morocco was met with great regret from numerous delegations. The election of the OAU secretary general showed that there are still divisions, and it will require a long time to remove these divisions. The minister of foreign affairs added that the prevailing feeling during the Addis Ababa summit was that Africa has wasted a lot of time on marginal problems and it is now the time for Africa to rise anew and attend to the real economic issues and the natural disasters, of famines, drought and the spreading of deserts, in addition to the problems due to debts and backwardness.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Receives Japanese Foreign Minister

EA192230 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee secretary general, Provisional Military Administrative Council chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has met and held discussions with Shintaro Abe, the Japanese foreign minister. During the discussions, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam briefed the Japanese foreign minister on the development of the natural drought problem, the damage it has caused, the actions taken by the revolutionary government to save compatriots exposed to this disaster, the programs set up by the government, and the type of aid needed to implement these programs. Our comrade revolutionary leader expressed his gratitude for the willingness the Japanese Government and people have shown and for the aid planned for affected compatriots.

After listening to the briefings by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Mr Shintaro Abe gave the assurance that he will acknowledge this to the Japanese people and government and will coordinate the aid. He assured our comrade revolutionary leader that Japan is willing to strengthen long-standing relations and, in particular, to help in the wide range of programs established to enable Ethiopia to emerge from the present drought problem. He added that Japan will give great assistance. Present during the ceremony, which was held at the WPE Central Committee office, were: Comrade Goshu Wolde, WPE Central Committee member and foreign minister, and Sokutaro Enomoto, the Japanese ambassador to Revolutionary Ethiopia.

Resettlement Program Begins in Welo Region

LD172136 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] The Worker's Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee Politburo resolution on settlement is being implemented in accordance with the action program drafted by the WPE Central Committee Politburo to combat and overcome the drought which has affected our country. The first settlers from six provinces in the Welo region were given a warm sendoff when they left Kembolcha for destinations arranged for them.

Comrade Legese Asfaw, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and secretary and chairman of the settlement subcommittee of the national committee to contain natural disaster, in his speech on the occasion said that due to the drought which had repeatedly affected Welo region, many of our compatriots faced shocking problems. Comrade Legese expressed his confidence that compatriots who were traveling today to destinations where arrangements had been made for them to settle would tame nature and, as well as becoming self-sufficient, would make a great contribution to strengthening the economy of the revolutionary mother country. Comrade Legese assured them of the party and revolutionary government's support wherever they settled.

SOMALIA

Radio Halgan Reports 10 Killed in Attack

EA192220 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] News flash: A report just received from the 9th Gen Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia wing of the Somali opposition movement says the fighters launched an attack on a base of the Siad Barre forces at Bandiradleh in Mudugh region, central Somalia, yesterday, 18 November.

Huge numbers of weapons belonging to the Mogadishu regime's forces were destroyed and soldiers with no idea of why they are fighting were killed.

The bullets of the opposition forces killed 10 of the Siad soldiers and wounded 21 others. A list of the destroyed military hardware will be broadcast to you in detail later.

Fighting Intensifies in North

EA192200 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Reports from the battle zones aimed at weakening the Mogadishu clique say the fighting carried out by the Somali National Movement [SNM] lately in the northern regions of the country has been intensified and has spread to neighboring regions day by day.

Reliable reports from the battle zones say the justified struggles by the SNM in the northern regions have reached a decisive stage and that the fighters in solidarity with the Somali civilians are continuing their just struggles inside towns, in mountainous areas, and on major roads linking the northern regions of the country.

The liberation fighters have the upper hand in these fights and are in control of the major roads into these towns.

Reports from Sheikh District say that during the week units of the SNM and forces of the Mogadishu clique were locked in battle.

The reports say that the 9th Brigade of the Mogadishu regime recently brought in from Las Anod suffered heavy losses. Fourteen of Barre's soldiers were killed and many others wounded.

Briefs

New PDRY, Turkish Envoys—Somali Democratic Republic Foreign Minister Dr Abd ar-Rahman Jama Barreh received copies of the letters of credence today of Muhammad Abduw and (Najad Teyran), new envoys from the PDRY and Turkey, respectively. [Summary] [*Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 13 Nov 84 LD*]

TANZANIA

Nyerere Advises Angola To Keep Cuban Troops

PA191514 Rome IPS in Spanish 1403 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Dar es Salaam, 19 Nov (IPS) — Julius Nyerere, a veteran African statesman who was elected president of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), has advised Angola not to send back to Cuba the contingent of that country that works with the Angolan Army.

In an interview published here yesterday, Nyerere, the president of Tanzania, said that his optimism for a prompt Namibian independence has weakened because of South African insistence on linking this to the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola.

South Africa, which occupies that southwest African territory in defiance of a UN resolution, has the support of the United States in its attitude of subjecting the independence of Namibia to a withdrawal of Cuban troops.

So far Washington has refused to recognize the pro-socialist Angolan Government, mainly due to the presence of Cuban troops, who were invited to go to that country in 1976 when the South African Army intervened in the Angolan civil war.

"South Africa wants to get rid of the MPLA government and replace it with a UNITA government," Nyerere told the *SUNDAY TIMES* of this capital.

UNITA has always had the support of South Africa, which has given it financial help and weapons.

The South African desire "to change" the present Angolan Government with one that is loyal to it, "is shared by the United State," Nyerere said.

In the interview, the Tanzanian president said that Mozambique was "forced" to sign the Nkomati nonaggression pact with South Africa in March. This is an agreement which Nyerere described as the "humiliation" of independent African states.

Nyerere stated: "Things have gotten worse for Mozambique since Nkomati." "Angola must learn a lesson from this fact. To allow the Cubans to leave now, would be committing suicide," the president added.

President Nyerere stated in the interview that "as long as the course of events in Mozambique continues to look negative, the frontline states will maintain their unity in spite of the Nkomati pact."

Nyerere warned that South Africa is bent on a campaign to destabilize the frontline states: "We don't want the South African offensive, backed by the United States, to divide us just as Camp David divided the Arabs," the Tanzanian president remarked. Nyerere also reiterated that he will not run in the 1985 elections. "It is time," he said, "for Tanzania to choose new leaders and that they tackle the country's new problems."

The Tanzanian chief of state did not expand on these problems, but it has been ruled out that he was directly referring to the internal economic situation in the country, where the standard of living has fallen below the poverty line defined by the United Nations.

"I suffer constant and numerous pressures, but I am sure that I still have the strength to help Tanzania look toward its future without any fear of what will happen," Nyerere said.

"My enemies and the enemies of Tanzania want me to step down because they claim that everything will stop: socialism, unity, and liberation. But that is a senseless assertion and I would like to retire just to show them that they are wrong," the elderly president concluded.

CAMEROON

Journalist Arrested for Illegal Arms Possession

AB192151 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Communique from the Presidency of the Republic]

[Text] Mr Blaise Pascal Talla, a journalist, shareholder, and official in charge of missions in the JEUNE AFRIQUE press group, was arrested recently by our security forces. During a search of his residence in Banjun and in the presence of administrative and traditional authorities and some members of his family, several military articles were discovered there, notably complete military outfits including helmets, arms, ammunition, signal guns, and military communications equipment, whose possession by individuals is strictly prohibited. Investigations continue.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

French Soldiers in CAR Put on Alert for Chad

AB191457 Paris AFP in French 2430 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Bangui, 19 Nov (AFP) — About 250 French soldiers (two companies) currently stationed in the CAR were put on alert and are ready to intervene "any time" in Chad, it was learned in Bangui on Monday from reliable sources.

These men, these sources state, could be dispatched to Ndjamena within the next few days if "no withdrawal of Libyan troops still in northern Chad is noticed."

Furthermore, the two "Jaguar" planes which flew over Ndjamena Sunday afternoon also flew over the towns of Ati and Abeche, situated respectively 400 and 700 kilometers east of the Chadian capital, the same sources add. The two planes, which were fully equipped with arms, then returned to Bangui, their departure base. During this "reconnaissance mission" the French pilots took several photographs of the region they flew over. It is not ruled out that "within the next few days" other reconnaissance flights will take place over Chadian territory, it is indicated from the CAR capital.

CHAD

Hernu Talks With Habre Before Return to Paris

AB192115 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] This afternoon, the head of state, President Hissein Habre, received for the second time the French minister of defense before his return to Paris. The president of the Republic and Mr Hernu had approximately 4 hours of talks today, 1 and 1/2 hours this afternoon and 2 hours this morning. As in the morning, Mr Hernu again refused to make any press statement. [Passage indistinct] Mr Hernu went directly to the airport after the second meeting to leave for Paris.

Minister Urges French Military Message to Libya

LD191635 Paris Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpts] [Unidentified speaker] This morning in Ndjamena, Charles Hernu and General Lacaze are ready to propose to Hissein Habre that a new French contingent be sent in. Ulysse Gosset:

[Gosset] Yes, in fact the French defense minister is to meet President Hissein Habre during the day, and as the AFP special correspondent said, France could propose that a new contingent be sent to face the Libyan troops who remain in the north of Chad. It is not the only option which could be exercised, but despite the denials from the French Army command here in Paris, the probability of a Manta II was still very serious this morning, even if there was a nuance between this and Manta I in that it would be a matter of sending to Chad only the equivalent of the forces left in the north by Al-Qadhdhafi, about 1,000 men, and in Paris this morning the expression defensive presence is being used and not offensive presence.

[Announcer] These are the facts of the problem as they appear this Monday at noon. Mr Gouara Lassou, good day, you are the Chadian foreign minister; what is your first reaction to this succession of events over the last 4 days?

[Lassou] My reaction, which is that of the Chadian Government, echoes a bit what we have always said about Chad. We have always let our friends know that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi understands one language only — the language of force; and we have always said: Al-Qadhdhafi will not be intimidated by someone drawing a line and saying: You will not cross this line.

When we learned that President Francois Mitterrand was in Crete with Col al-Qadhdhafi, we expressed our hope that President Mitterrand would speak firmly to Col al-Qadhdhafi. We think that he did speak firmly, and now we would like Chad in this second phase of aggression — because contrary to what people are saying Al-Qadhdhafi has not pulled a single soldier out of Chadian territory, he has only strengthened his forces; and we think that in the days to come Al-Qadhdhafi will attack our various positions — we would like France, which is ready to help us recover our independence and territorial integrity, to react in order to make Al-Qadhdhafi leave Chad.

[Announcer] But by what means then? You think force must be used?

[Lassou] Absolutely. I told you that Al-Qadhdhafi understands one language only: that of force.

[Announcer] And you think that French paratroopers are ready to fight the Libyan forces in your country?

[Lassou] We have asked the French people to do this, it is up to them to decide if they are ready to fight or not.

[Announcer] Have you heard the latest news this morning, according to which Charles Hernu and General Lacaze, who command the French Army, are reported to be proposing to

Hissein Habre that the troops be sent back, in other words a second Manta operation; are you for this operation?

[Lassou] If it is the same kind of Manta operation that we have seen I think it would not be a good thing. We would like it to be a Manta [operation] with more muscle, a Manta which measures up to France's ability. In other words, not a weak Manta. It must be able to fight energetically, to fight and move Libya out of Chad.

[Gosset] So in your opinion, the Jaguars flying over Chad and taking photographs do not intimidate Al-Qadhdhafi.

[Lassou] Al-Qadhdhafi has already shot down a French Jaguar. Overflights will not intimidate Al-Qadhdhafi.

[Gosset] How many men would it take to intimidate Al-Qadhdhafi, in your opinion, because at the moment they are talking about 1,000 men equal to the 1,000 Libyans who are in the north of Chad?

[Lassou] There are not 1,000 Libyans, there are about 4,000 to 5,000 of them. If you like, I can tell you roughly what is happening. At Faya at the moment, there are about 3 battalions of infantry, at least 1 company of armored vehicles, 5 helicopters; at Fada, further south, there are about 12 fighter planes, 2-3 transport planes, armored vehicles; there are also troops stationed at Ounianga-Kebir; at Gouro there are 3-4 battalions of armored vehicles; at Ouadidoum, which is an oasis between Faya and Ounianga, there is a big, large-capacity runway under construction.

[Gosset] President Mitterrand said it was a matter of purely tactical weapons and not offensive weapons. Do you agree with this interpretation?

[Lassou] If we are going to talk in military terms, I believe that when foreign troops are on the territory of another country, an aggressive act has already been committed. Aggression is offensive, so there is nothing tactical.

[Gosset] Yes, Mr Minister, you have come back from the OAU summit conference in Addis Ababa. Did you receive support from the other African countries at this summit or did they reply to you with pleasant words, but nothing more?

[Lassou] You know we have faith in the OAU; but also we have often said that the OAU can do nothing with regard to the situation prevailing in Chad. If all the OAU countries gave us assurances, what would these assurances be able to achieve? Do you think that African soldiers will get together and come to fight in Chad?

[Gosset] There have already been Zairians.

[Lassou] Yes, they are friends, they responded to our appeal as France did.

[Gosset] But you have other friends in Africa; what I mean is: Must France bear the entire weight of the situation in Chad?

[Lassou] One cannot impose anything on one's friends, [illegible] only ask one's friends for help. If they come, that is good, if they do not come, one cannot force them.

[Gosset] During your few hours in Paris, did you meet French dignitaries?

[Lassou] No, I am just making a stopover. I have no plans to meet with French officials here. I will perhaps meet a few friends.

[Gosset] Despite the developments in the situation?

[Lassou] If it is necessary I will do so, but I think that with the presence of the French defense minister in Ndjamena and the chief of staff of the Army in Ndjamena, as Mr Cheysson said when he announced his agreement with Al-Qadhdhafi, I hope it is a message for Al-Qadhdhafi. I hope he will understand this message and I hope it is a military message.

[Announcer] Mr Minister, I thank you.

GUNT Forces Deny Operating in CAR Territory

AB162137 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] The revolutionary commandos have formally denied allegations that GUNT forces were operating in the Markounda area in CAR territory. These sources also add that [words indistinct] between the Central African people, no doubt to discredit the GUNT on the international scene. For our part, we say that the Markounda attack might have come from the puppet horde in disarray.

Bardai Claims 'Popular Uprising' in Southern Chad

AB171452 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Summary] According to a military information from the southern part of the country, the situation is serious there. "In fact, it is not an exaggeraion to say that a real popular uprising is taking place in that part of the country against the last positions of the puppet army." Helped by some courageous commandos, the inhabitants of the region have attacked the military positions of the enemy troops and embarked upon overt protest against the central power. In the face of the inhabitants' herioc uprising the traitor Colonel (Hoteng) has gathered his troops and asked the inhabitants to leave the region.

CDR Secretary General Being Detained in Fada

AB191720 Paris AFP in French 1641 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Paris, 19 Nov (AFP) — Acheikh ibn Oumar, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Council [CDR], one of the major components of the GUNT, "is well" and is currently being "detained" in Fada, northwest Chad, Mahamat Djarma Khatir, leading member of the CDR on a visit to Paris, told AFP.

Contrary to what was announced over the last few days, Acheikh ibn Oumar has not been arrested, Mr Khatir said. [Words indistinct]our movement during a congress and [words indistinct] (?asked) to remain with us until final decisions are made by the congress."

Mr Khatir pointed out that many accusations have been leveled against the CDR secretary general, especially "laxity" in the adminstration of the movement. According to him, "The CDR secretary general has not been to the warfront for 9 months, even though he is responsible for the GUNT defense ministry." "It was therefore necessary for him to return to Chad to provide explanations," Mr Khatir said.

Bardai Comments on Mitterrand-Al-Qadhdhafi Meeting

AB191645 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Al-Qadhdhafi-Mitterrand meeting on the Greek island of Crete — which was warmly welcomed by all countries that love peace, justice, and freedom but which was denounced at the same time by the conservative and reactionary circles in Africa and the West — has been given prominence by all the radio stations and newspapers in the world. Commenting on the discussions between the French and Libyan statesmen of which he was the honorable organizer, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou described them as historic.

For his part, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that his discussions with the French head of state had opened a new chapter in the relations between Libya and France. President Francois Mitterrand, who returned to Paris on Thursday evening, disclosed to journalists on Friday morning the results of his meeting with the leader of the Libyan revolution, a meeting which was mainly devoted to the correct appraisal of the progress made since the beginning of the implementation of the French-Libyan agreement on the withdrawal of troops from Chad.

Contrary to the malicious and obstructionist campaign being maintained by the United States and their recognized agents in Ndjamena concerning the so-called presence of a large Libyan force in northern Chad, the French head of state clarified the situation: As far as he was concerned, there was no Libyan plane or troops with heavy weapons in the northern part of the country under the control of the Transitional National Union Government. The French president also said that he was being regularly informed about the withdrawal of the Libyan troops by French Army Headquarters.

Francois Mitterrand's eloquent clarification during his press conference thus put an end to all the tendentious speculations coming particularly from Ndjamena and Washington and lavishly reported by some sensation-seeking journalists. Moreover, the French head of state's clarifying statement emphasized the failure of the attempt to reverse the new situation created in Chad through the maneuvers orchestrated by American imperialism and its FAN accomplices.

According to our permanent correspondent, the leader of the blood-thirsty group in Ndjamena — who is in direct contact with Washington through the American diplomatic mission — is now doing his utmost to hinder the implementation of the French-Libyan agreement. Our permanent correspondent also said that by rudely pretending that the Libyans have not withdrawn from Chad, the leader of the puppet clique hopes for only one thing: the redeployment of the Manta forces in Chad.

As for the so-called observations made by American satellites, they also aim at the same objective of destroying the French-Libyan agreement. Besides, it is not surprising that the French right, the American Administration, and the reactionary group in Ndjamena are singing the same song. The United States, which has never hidden its hatred for the revolutionary Libyan regime, is now exerting strong pressure on the French Socialist Government in order to make it renounce all (?relations) with Tripoli.

Some reactionary states on the continent — including Gabon, Zaire, and Ivory Coast — supported by certain radio stations in Africa, have for their part engaged in maneuvers which border on a blackmail. On the other hand, the French conservatives — who for election reasons had hoped that the Socialists would get bogged down in Chad — could not be pleased with the Mitterrand regime freeing itself from the Chadian mess; however, by strongly reaffirming his determination to continue dialogue with Col al-Qadhdhafi, President Francois Mitterrand has clearly demonstrated that he had no intention at all to retreat.

With his new policy toward the Libyan regime, President Mitterrand can count on the support on many African leaders and particularly President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. The latter has expressed happiness about the strengthening of relations between France and Libya, contrary to certain reactionary African (?leaders) who are being manipulated by neocolonial circles. The reorientation of France's African policy now seems irreversible.

[Words indistinct] the rectification of French policy can only increase France's prestige in Africa and the rest of the world.

As for Chad, the Chadian patriots believe that it is never too late to do the right thing. [Passage indistinct] The Mitterrand regime owes it to itself to keep away from a regime which systematically treads on man's elementary rights and whose repressive nature no longer needs to be demonstrated.

ZAIRE

Delegation Leaves for RCP Congress in Bucharest

AB162022 Kinsahsa Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Citizen Gabembo Simochadi, secretary general charged with relations with brotherly and friendly parties, left Kinshasa this morning for Bucharest. In the capital of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Citizen Gabembo and the delegation he is heading will take part in the 13th RCP [Romanian Communist Party] Congress, which will open on 19 November for 4 days.

Commentary Urges 'More Vigilance' Against Enemies

AB192040 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0918 GMT 19 Nov 84

[AZAP commentary: "More Vigilance"]

[Text] Kinshasa, 19 Nov (AZAP) — Last Week Zaire was once again the victim of a territorial invasion led from a neighboring and so-called brotherly country. Armed individuals coming from Tanzania, in fact, occupied the Moba zone for some time and killed civilians. The motives of such a despicable act were to disturb public order before the presidential elections process is concluded next December. The last month of the year will be marked by the swearing in of the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the Republic for a new term of office and also by the French presidential couple's visit to Zaire before the French and African heads of state conference, which is scheduled to take place in Bujumbura.

These troublemakers' aim was to create a climate of insecurity in order to compromise political stability and to jeopardize the economic achievements in the country. Their immediate goal was to bring about the cancellation of the French presidential visit to Zaire on the grounds of social insecurity because this visit illustrates the vitality and influence of our diplomacy. But they did not deal with the Zairian Armed Forces, FAZ, whose bravery and determination have already defeated more formidable invaders more than once. Our Armed Forces needed only 24 hours to restore peace in the Moba zone with their usual quick and smashing counterattack. Yet, our Armed Forces were rather jubilant the day before because they were about to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the FAZ.

Did the enemies of our people believe that they could take advantage of a truce imposed by circumstances and disturb the peace with impunity? That was a naive move, because the present peace under the Second Republic is too dear to us to let a group of blood-thirsty adventurers compromise it for a people who, in fact, remain loyal to their guide, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. The FAZ have once again demonstrated their role, which consists of guaranteeing the territorial integrity and security of the people and their property. In short, they are the rampart of the whole nation against the pernicious attacks undertaken by its enemies.

A lesson should be drawn from the sad events that took place in Moba: More vigilance is needed against the enemies of our people. It is worth pointing out that not many people are happy about the peace we have enjoyed in this country for 24 years. Especially since our economic recovery is no longer a dream but a reality recognized by objective observers. Thanks to the head of state, Zaire is emerging from economic stagnation and is heading toward a much happier economic future with determination. In addition, Zaire has won back its partners' trust thanks to its policy of rigor.

Despite the damages of this aggression, Zaire, which has made good-neighborliness one of the principles of its African policy, will maintain the same stand on African issues because it is convinced that internal peace within each of our states is a guarantee for the unity of the continent and a prerequisite for any policy that has the well-being of the African peoples at heart. Our country will maintain its stand but we will be more careful and more vigilant in order to uncover and defeat with the same alertness and bravery our real and potential enemies.

Opposition Denies External Elements Involved at Moba

AB191805 Paris AFP in French 1634 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Paris, 19 Nov (AFP) — "Internal opponents," who came from the Hewa-Bora maquis near Kalemie (north of Moba), joined mutineers of the Moba garrison, during the incidents that occurred last week in the area of the Shaba Province, southeast Zaire, according to a statement issued in Paris on Monday by the Renewed Congolese National Movement (MNCR).

According to this Zairian opposition movement, the maquisards joined Hewa-Bora following fighting between "rebel soldiers" and government troops, which lasted 4 days. The Hewa-Bora maquis has existed since 1965 and it has never been possible to wipe it out, the statement added, denying that the Moba events followed infiltration of armed elements from Tanzania.

Zairian Information Minister Sakombi Inongo stated on Friday that the mutineers came from Tanzania and that "two emissaries came from Belgium a few weeks ago and settled in Tanzania with the aim of preparing this incursion."

On the same day, Zairian Foreign Minister Umba Di Lutete summoned the ambassadors of Belgium and Tanzania in Kinshasa to "inform them [words indistinct]." The Zairian Government denounced in a statement "the responsibility of the Belgian and Tanzanian Governments in the Moba events, which left about 100 rebels and about a dozen civilians dead," according to Kinshasa.

A group of Zairian organizations in France have denied in a statement that the Moba events were the handwork of external elements.

BENIN

PRC Trade Union Delegation Concludes Visit

AB191623 Dakar PANA in French 0913 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Lome, 19 (TAP/PANA) — After a 7-day friendly visit to Benin, a Chinese trade union delegation led by Han Kai, member of the Presidium of the Trade Union Federation of China and president of the Beijing Trade Union Association, Left Cotonou on Sunday afternoon for Morocco, it was reported by *NEW CHINA*.

During its stay in Benin, the Chinese delegation was received by Benin's acting president, Mr Vilon Guezo. It also held several working sessions with the Beninese trade union delegation led by Mr Gregoire Agbahe, the deputy first secretary general of the National Union of Trade Unions of Benin.

BURKINA

Minister, DPRK Delegation Visit Gold Fields

AB191110 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Comrade Henri Zongo, the minister of economic promotion, has just ended a mission to the Seno region. He was accompanied by an important Korean delegation comprising the vice minister of foreign trade, the ambassador, and many other Korean officials. The two delegations visited the gold fields of Tafarou, Guiro, and Bahniaga, in the Selba Division.

Following the visit, our correspondent, Amadou Gouba, asked Comrade Henri Zongo for his views on what he had just seen. The minister replied that he had no more doubt that Burkina Faso had real interests to safeguard this area, despite the erroneous idea of poverty engineered into the minds by imperialism in an effort to better establish its domination. He said our country's future in the field of mining is promising.

SIDWAYA Critical of Canadian Embassy Closure

AB192305 Ouagadougou SIDWAYA in French 16 Nov 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Burkina and the Canadian Dollar"]

[Text] When, as good materialists and dialecticians, we agree with all materialists of the world that nothing is isolated and that everything holds together and overlaps; no one should disagree with this, because facts prove this point every day.

On 13 November 1984, after a meeting with Captain Blaise Compaore, the minister of state at the Presidency of Burkina in charge of justice and acting president, the Canadian ambassador to our country resident in Abidjan, His Excellency John Bell, announced the closure of the Canadian representation bureau in Ouagadougou. The reasons given were economic ones. In fact, Canada is facing a budget deficit of 38 billion Canadian dollars. This is why, when coming into power after the last general elections, the Conservative Party promised to reduce the state's cost of living, as has been the case in Burkina since the August revolution. It therefore appears normal, a priori, to close embassies. But why in Ouagadougou and nowhere else? Canada has no answer.

Apparently, since the August revolution, relations between our two countries have not changed and Burkina is determined to maintain good relations with that country whose cooperation has always been exemplary in Africa and in our country. But for some time now, signs of tiredness could be seen on the Canadian side; signs linked with the fact that the August revolution used Canadian vehicles to seize power on 4 August 1983. The Burkinabe people would have to pay sooner or later for this brazenness, it was thought on the Canadian side. Was 13 November the day? Canada does not say so, but its ambassador asserts that his country will increase its aid to our country. What about this closure? It does not seem justified for several reasons:

First, Canada works in Africa especially through regional or subregional organizations. Burkina houses the headquarters of the Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and the Liptako-Gourma organization, both of which receive aid from the Canadian Sahel program. In addition, several Canadian nongovernmental organizations are actively working in the Burkinabe rural sector. Second, Canada has offices in Mali, Niger, and an embassy in the Ivory Coast. Out of the offices in the three countries, Mali, Niger, and the embassy in the Ivory Coast, it is the bureau in Burkina — which is situated in the woody area of Ouagadougou — which has been renovated at a cost of more than 160 million CFA francs. Those of Mali and Niger have yet to be renovated and yet it is the renovated bureau that is being closed down. However, one speaks of economy. In the case of Ouagadougou, therefore, economic reasons do not hold. Other reasons must be found.

Elsewhere there is the West African Economic Community [CEAO] and Mohamed Diawara. Yes, the Conservative Party in power in Canada, as a good Conservative Party, is obviously linked to business, if not the business world. There are useful cross references to make: The meeting of the Dakar Club was held in Montreal at the end of September this year under the chairmanship of Mohamed Diawara. Yet we know that this same Diawara embezzled 6 billion CFA francs belonging to the CEAO. At the end of October, the CEAO summit was held in Bamako. Burkina was elected to the chairmanship of the organization and the international crook, Mohamed Diawara, returned to Ouagadougou with our Comrade President Thomas Sankara, who promised his colleagues that he would get to the bottom of the affair.

On 13 Nov 1984, Canada diplomatically entered the scene. All these facts are not isolated ones. They are linked to each other and one can deduce that the Canadian decision is a political one. The Burkinabe revolution does not seem to suit Canada because, according to reliable sources, the closure of offices concerned only Rwanda; but in Rwanda, a colony of Canadian missionaries strongly protested when they heard of this decision. Canada therefore fell on Burkina, in spite of a certain number of paradoxes. Interference or no interference, this political decision cannot be isolated either. Canada belongs to a political camp that does not hide itself. Has a masked economic war been launched against the August revolution? There is every reason to believe this in view of certain recent elections which tell the tale. In any case, Canada has chosen its dollar to act on the August revolution. Meanwhile, it is up to Canada to show the Burkinabe people the contrary as they are wondering about the numerous implications of this unilateral although lawful decision.

GHANA

Britain Increases Aid; Obeng Visits UK

AB192015 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] There has been a further increase of half a million pounds sterling in Britain's program of assistance to Ghana. This brings to 3.8 million pounds sterling the amount of aid so far advanced to Ghana this financial year. This was announced by the British minister for overseas development, Timothy Wilson [name as heard], when the visiting PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] coordinating secretary, Mr P.V. Obeng, called on him in London. Mr Wilson said the British Government is impressed by the PNDC's economic reforms. He noted that Britain's Commonwealth partners are getting the greatest share of the funds available under the British aid program.

Mr Obeng, who is on an official visit to Britain, expressed appreciation for the Britain Government's aid program. He stressed the importance of the trade links between the two countries, especially as Ghana's economic recovery proceeds. Mr Obeng raised a number of issues on which he thought the British Government's cooperation might be useful.

Mr Wilson said Britain will be very willing to help on such matters as crops storage. The PNDC coordinating secretary is expected to visit the Tropical Development and Research Institute for further discussions.

Withdrawal of Cuban Troops in Angola Viewed

AB191812 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Abena Gyebi Obeng commentary]

[Text] During the Angolan civil war, the MPLA had to fight several groups, namely the Portuguese colonial forces, South Africa, and the Western-backed factions of UNITA and FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front]. Cuban troops were therefore invited by the MPLA to help win what has been called the second war of independence.

After formal independence, some of the troops left for Cuba, but the Government of Angola requested that some stay to help train Angolan soldiers. One would have thought that Angola would have been left in peace to solve its problems of food, shelter, and education for its people; however, the same groups which have never recognized the independence of Angola continued to harass this country. South Africa has invaded Angola on several occasions, not to mention the continued rebel UNITA attacks. Due to its own problems with Cuba, the United States has never been neutral on this question of Cuban troops in Angola. As a basis for cooperation and recognition of the young Angola Government, the United States asked for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. This demand has somehow found its way in the question of Namibia's independence. Although the OAU, the United Nations, and other groups have supported Angola in rejecting any linkage between the Cuban troops and Namibia's independence, the latest report indicates that Angola is prepared to let the Cuban troops go if South Africa will withdraw its own troops occupying southern Angola, grant Namibia independence, and stop backing the rebel UNITA movement. This decision was announced shortly after the dismissal of the Angolan foreign minister, Paulo Jorge, who is known as a hardliner opposed to any form of linkage between Cuban troops and Namibia independence.

Angola's agreement to let go the Cuban troops could make her liable to total invasion by South Africa in South Africa's bid to colonize southern Africa. Angola is a sovereign nation and has the right to decided what is good for her, but this should not prevent us from remarking that her decision on this matter is another sign of the heavy pressure which South Africa and its U.S. backers have exerted on Angola.

A withdrawal of the Cuban troops will leave Angola exposed. Furthermore, it will alter the balance of forces in the area, especially in view of the inability of the OAU to strengthen the frontline states militarily. For this reason, the decision will further slow down the liberation struggle in South Africa itself without guaranteeing that the racist republic will actually give up Namibia as required by UN Resolution 435.

King Hassan Criticized for Withdrawal From OAU

AB152304 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Kwasi Amoako commentary]

[Text] Morocco has carried out its threats to withdraw from the OAU and has pulled Zaire along with her as the only active sympathizer. Zaire, however, did not say she is withdrawing from the OAU. She says she is suspending her membership, whatever that means. While Morocco's withdrawal may not cause any serious disruption of the organization, the departure of a senior member of the family is a sad affair. Morocco is a founding member of the OAU.

In taking this action, King Hassan has not been fair to his fellow leaders in Africa. He has not been fair to the entire people of Africa. King Hassan has withdrawn Morocco from the OAU because the majority of the people of Africa, represented by their leaders, have determined that the people of Western Sahara have a right to self-determination and have accordingly agreed to offer a seat to the SDAR at the OAU conference.

Now if Morocco is withdrawing from the organization just because the SDAR has been seated, then one wonders what kind of conviction has kept Morocco in the OAU all these years. One of the ideals upon which the OAU has founded is independence and the right of self-determination for all peoples of Africa. That ideal must guide us all in our behavior within the OAU.

Morocco was content to let matters rest when the Spaniards were ruling Western Sahara as colonizers, but as soon as Spain withdrew from the territory in 1975, King Hassan quickly laid claim to the territory for Morocco. He then proceeded to share the territory out with Mauritania. Mauritania later came to realize the immoral nature of the deal and decided to give up her share. Morocco, on her part, persisted in her claim and she has since been fighting the Polisario Front for the control of the territory.

The question one is bound to ask is: Are the people of Western Sahara doomed to be a subject people all their lives? If the Spaniards have left, should the people of Western Sahara have another master by all means? The people there have the right to rule themselves and determine their own affairs just like any of us who are members of the OAU.

King Hassan has failed to recognize the realities of the situation and the mood of the present times. If the OAU has taken up a stand against European colonialism and white minority rule in South Africa, how can the organization be expected to condone the forced rule of one African people over another?

King Hassan has really played himself out of the OAU because he has come to stand for much that the OAU is against. Perhaps time will heal the present wounds. If after a year or two of withdrawal Morocco comes to realize that Western Sahara is not worth this rupture with the whole continent and is willing to come back to the OAU fold, there is no doubt that she will be most welcome.

GUINEA

Defense Minister Receives USSR Military Delegation

AB191858 Conkary Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Captain Lancine Keita, member of the Military Committee for National Redress and minister of national defense, this morning, 19 November, received in audience Admiral Bondarenko, chief at the headquarters of the Ministry of National Defense of the Soviet Union. During their discussions, Minister Lancine Keita talked about the fine technical assistance of the Soviet experts in Guinea. They also reviewed the July 1983 agreements, which were made within the framework of national defense. The defense minister expressed the wish to see the friendly relations of cooperation between their two armies further increase.

Adm Bondarenko, leader of the Soviet delegation, expressed happiness over the warm reception given to his delegation. Adm Bondarenko spoke about the Soviet Government's readiness to increase its cooperation with the Republic of Guinea. The leader of the Soviet delegation did not fail to reaffirm to the Guinean defense minister all the agreements signed in Moscow last July in the field of national defense.

LIBERIA

National Democratic Party Given Legal Status

AB192215 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The National Democratic Party of Liberia [NDPL] has been granted legal political status. The people's monthly and public court judge, Mrs (Novela Ashe Thompson), has registered and probated the documents of the NDPL, giving it legal right to function as a political party in the country.

Authorities Release Detained Journalist

AB171459 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Monrovia, Nov 17 (AFP) — Liberia's military authorities have released a journalist after he spent six months in jail without formal charges for allegedly printing antigovernment articles for the foreign press, the independent weekly *OBSERVER* said today.

The reporter, Rufus Marmoh Darpoh, was arrested June 18 and detained at the maximum security Camp Belle Yella prison after authorities alleged he had written "slanderous articles" on the Liberian Government. At the time of his arrest, Mr Darpoh was correspondent for the London-based magazine *WEST AFRICA NOW* and the Voice of Germany. He formerly served as editor of the independent *DAILY OBSERVER* and the government-owned *NEW LIBERIAN* newspapers.

Shortly after his release yesterday, Mr Darpoh denied writing antigovernment articles, the *OBSERVER* said. He also expressed "surprise" over local press stories quoting military officials as saying he had confessed to producing slanderous articles.

Student Newspaper Launched in Monrovia

AB192140 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] A student newspaper, the *LIBERIAN STUDENTS RECORDER*, has been launched in Monrovia. The eight-page newspaper, organized by a group of students from various institutions in Liberia, is aimed at encouraging students-teachers relations, as well as informing the public about happenings on campuses. It will appear on the Liberian market tomorrow morning.

MALI

Sentence Commuted on Takeover Anniversary

AB190807 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Tomorrow, 19 November, will be observed as the anniversary of the Army takeover. On this occasion, Presidential Decree No 3,443 issued on 17 November 1984 grants clemency to a detainee, Bala Konare, born around 1934 in Bamako, son of the late Daye and Awa Cisse. He had been detained since 12 July 1976 for threatening the internal security of the state.

Sentenced on 9 June 1977 to penal servitude for life, he was detained in Tombouctou. Following the clemency measure, the remainder of his sentence has been commuted.

The ministers of interior and of justice and keeper of the seals are charged with the enforcement of the present decree, which will be recorded and published in the official journal.

NIGERIA

Liberia's Samuel Doe Arrives in Lagos 19 Nov

AB191315 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The Liberian head of state, Dr Samuel Doe, has arrived in Lagos on a 2-day official visit to Nigeria.

He was received on arrival at the Murtala Mohammed Airport by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, assisted by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, members of the Supreme and Executive Councils, service chiefs, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Dr Doe was accorded all the welcome formalities reserved for visiting heads of state, including the 21-gun salute and the inspection of a guard of honor.

Information Minister Leaves on Visit to PRC

AB191340 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Nigeria's minister of information, social development, youth, sports, and culture, Group Captain Emeka Omerua, leaves Lagos today for the PRC.

During his stay in Beijing, the minister will sign a cultural agreement with the Chinese Government. He will also explore other avenues for further cooperation between China and Nigeria. The Chinese minister of information and culture had paid a similar visit to Nigeria.

Tight Security Measures Taken in Bauchi

AB192120 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Tight security measures are being taken by the Bauchi State government to prevent the outbreak of religious riots. The state governor, Brigadier Sanni Sami, announced this while speaking to newsmen in Yola yesterday.

He said that more than 100 religious fanatics, mostly aliens, have been detained, adding that no stone will be left unturned in a bid to provide maximum security for residents in the state.

11 Federal Universities To Reopen This Year

AB161830 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Eleven of the 16 federal universities in the country have been given approval to reopen for this academic session. A statement by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology gave the names of the universities involved as the University of Sokoto; Federal University of Technology, Owerri; Federal University of Technology, Akure; University of Ilorin; University of Ibadan; and University of Benin.

Others are university of Jos, main campus, and Makurdi campus; University of Lagos, Lagos campus; University of Port Harcourt; University of Nigeria, Nsukka; and University of Maiduguri.

The statement added that other universities not included in the list would have to meet the Federal Government criteria on students' feeding and accommodation before they could reopen for the academic session.

Satellite 'Breakdown' Affects Plateau TV Programs

AB200940 Lagos NAN in English 0929 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Jos, Nov. 20 (NAN) — Television viewers in Plateau have for the past five days not been able to watch network programmes following a breakdown of the post and telecommunications [P and T] satellites in the state.

Announcers of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and the state-owned television stations tell their viewers whenever they expected to hook up with NTA Lagos, sorry, we can not bring you the network programme — it is due to our inability to get signals from the satellite. The TV stations have also substituted local programmes and documentaries for the 9 pm network news.

Also affected by the breakdown of the satellite is the Plateau branch office of the Nigeria External Telecommunications (NET), which claimed that it could not transmit its subscribers' international calls. The acting general manager of NET in the state, Mr Bero Garuba, told newsmen that his company has lost more than 4000 naira since the satellite became faulty. He said that the problem would continue until the P and T put the satellite in order.

The territorial controller of the P and T in Plateau, Mr Francis Anyadike, told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA in a telephone interview that he had just returned from Lagos and so could not know what was wrong with the satellite. Mr Anyadike, however, stated that he was not allowed to talk to newsmen, claiming, you should understand that I am a civil servant, why worry me.

State Monopoly of Some Radios Suggested

AB191020 Lagos Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] It has been suggested that those who will be affected by the proposed reduction of radio and television stations in the country should be absorbed by the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA. The proposal was made by the managing director of the *DAILY TIMES*, Mr Shegun Oshoba, who was speaking on an Ogun radio program in Abeokuta. Mr Oshoba also pointed out that private ownership of radio stations should be limited to urban stations, while the government should monopolize the short and medium wave for security reasons.

Implications of Reagan Reelection Examined

AB162103 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The result of the 4 November presidential election in the United States follows a pattern that had earlier been predicted by both pollsters and political analysts. Ronald Reagan was given another solid 4-year mandate by the American electorate through an election victory whose magnitude has never been known in the history of the U.S. presidential elections. But before discussing the implications of Reagan's landslide victory, it will be expedient to recall some of the factors that made it possible.

In 1979 when Ronald Reagan was challenging incumbent Jimmy Carter, he anchored the theme of his campaign on two main points. The first was that America's economic fortune had taken a turn for the worse since the Carter presidency. Secondly, and with emphasis, he talked about America's fast-eroding military power and influence in the world. Specifically, he charged that Jimmy Carter's sermon on human rights had done incalculable harm to U.S. vital interests in Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and South Korea. Reagan defeated Carter in that election and became president.

During his first term as president the American economy witnessed an impressive recovery, leading to the creation of over 6 million new jobs and the lowering of inflation. American defense capability was peaked up to meet the presumed challenges posed by the Soviet Union. In short, within this period, President Reagan claimed to have made America great again. This was the setting under which Democratic challenger Walter Mondale joined [word indistinct] with him. Walter Mondale articulated his points and stressed them very clearly, but unfortunately the American people were not receptive to his ideas.

Therefore, what are the implications of Reagan's second coming to the hot spots in the world, such as Latin America, the Middle East, and especially Africa? In short, what does it portend for global peace and security? It is on record that throughout President Reagan's first term in office, he never met with his Soviet counterpart. U.S.-Soviet relations came to an all-time low and arms limitations talks were deadlocked. America's defense budget was increased and at an alarming rate. Ronald Reagan ordered the invasion of tiny Grenda, ostensibly to bring democracy. Nicaragua is perpetually living under the threat of a possible U.S. invasion. Right-wing guerrilla movements, fighting their legitimate governments perceived as communist-inclined, are given enthusiastic military and logistic support by the Reagan government.

In Africa, the situation is even worse. The Reagan administration has inextricably linked the independence of Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. In South Africa, Reagan sees the racist regime as a great ally that must be protected at the expense of the black majority. No wonder during the presidential debate Reagan mentioned Africa only in terms of South Africa's strategic importance to U.S. major interests. It is therefore not surprising that there was widespread jubilation among the white racists in the enclave over the second coming of President Reagan. It must be this election that led to Radio South Africa's description of Reagan's reelection as gratifying since it gave South Africa a breathing space. The radio added that it would be foolish to ignore the fact that Reagan had provided the shield behind which South Africa has been able to work out its own destiny unhindered by outside interference.

In our opinion, what South Africa's radio said amounts to a sad commentary on America, a country that cries itself as a land of equal opportunity and of leading democracy in the would. The leopard, we know, does not easily change its spots, but for Americans to be taken seriously, they have to ensure through their overwhelming mandate that their presidents practice worldwide what they proclaim that America stands for, and this is freedom and liberty, justice and equality. As for President Reagan himself, he has 4 golden years to put himself in history, as either a statesman or a demagogue and a war monger.

UN Resolution on Afghanistan Supported

AB171500 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Nigeria has urged all parties in the Afghanistan controversy to create the necessary political climate to enable Afghan refugees to return to their homes and join in the country's political and economic processes.

In an address to the UN General Assembly [UNGA] during a debate on Afghanistan, a director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lagos, Mr Timothy (Ngbopkere), reaffirmed Nigeria's support for Afghanistan's sovereignty and nonalignment and the right of its people to freely choose their own form of political, economic, and social systems.

Mr (Ngbopkere) recommended that the 1980 resolution on the situation in Afghanistan should be urgently implemented. The resolution stressed the need for unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the creation of conditions necessary for the voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their homes.

The Nigerian envoy said that there had been no solution to the Afghan problem because the parties involved had not demonstrated the will to reach a political settlement in conformity with the resolution.

The debate on the situation in Afghanistan, which started last Tuesday, has ended with the resolution which, among other things, called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country and the preservation of territorial integrity, political independence, and nonalignment character of Afghanistan.

Reconciliation Commission on Chad Supported

AB191345 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Viewpoint]

[Text] The proposal by Nigeria for a reconciliation commission on Chad came shortly after France and Libya had pulled out their interventionist forces from the crisis-torn country. It was also against the background of the failure of the latest attempt in Brazzaville to reconcile the opposing Chadian factions. Nigeria, like many other African countries, welcomed the withdrawal of the French and Libyan troops from Chad. But she was conscious of the fact that the foreign troop pullout would not itself bring peace to war-torn Chad. It will only make possible the application of an African solution to what is ostensibly an African problem. Therefore, adoption of the suggestion by Nigeria for an OAU reconciliation commission on Chad will help to ensure a renewed African initiative in the crisis.

Past African peace efforts in Chad have been at the instance of individual countries with the OAU giving its blessings. For example, in 1979 Nigeria sponsored two Chadian peace conferences in Kano and Lagos, resulting in a peace accord and the formation of a Transitional Government of National Unity in Ndjamena. Unfortunately, the Chadians broke faith with the accord soon after they returned to their country and resumed armed conflict. Only last month, a preparatory peace conference on Chad was held in Brazzaville at the instance of the Congolese Government. Although that preliminary conference also collapsed, one of the Chadian factions there stressed the need for effective OAU participation in the peace process. Therefore, the establishment of an OAU commission on Chad, as proposed by Nigeria, will facilitate lasting settlement of the dispute through the application of an African solution, and, more importantly, it will help to discourage foreign intervention which had made peace elusive over the years.

However, political analysts hold the view that the setting up of a commission may not automatically bring peace to Chad. First of all, the Chadians themselves must demonstrate absolute goodwill and strong political desire for peace in their country after almost 20 years of fraticidal struggle. They should be advised once again that the best approach for them is to go to a roundtable conference without the imposition of any preconditions. The OAU itself should be prepared to take decisive measures to ensure the implementation of its actions on Chad in compliance with the Chadian leaders. This is the only way to guarantee that the reconciliation commission on Chad would not have been set up in vain.

SENEGAL

Minister Calls for Food Aid To Cover Deficit

AB192130 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Amadou Bator Diop, minister of rural development, this afternoon opened a seminar on the concept of integrated rural development and the coordination between research, training, and development as part of the new agricultural policy. He took the opportunity to launch an appeal to our partners of the international community to help us as in the past to cover cereal deficits, which this year is estimated at 150,000 tons. Bator Diop disclosed that the food aid is to be distributed as soon as possible to alleviate the sufferings of drought-stricken farmers north of the country.

Amadou Bator Diop also took the opportunity to reiterate his call for a common desire to eradicate the plague hitting Africa, namely hunger, malnutrition, and economic imbalance, that is, underdevelopment.

Cape Verde's Pereira Stops Over Enroute to Paris

AB191045 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira made a technical stopover in Dakar last night. The Cape Verde leader was on his way to Paris, France.

SIERRA LEONE

Saudis Grant Money for Islamic College

AB181346 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Freetown, Nov 18 (AFP) — The Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, has donated 1.5 million dollars to the Sierra Leone Muslim Brotherhood for the construction of an Islamic college at Magburaka, it was announced today.

The college at Magburaka, some 200 kilometers (120 miles) east of here, will cater for 500 students and is to be built by the Chinese firm Agricon, the announcement said.

Religious sources said the Saudi grant was the first time such a large single donation had been given to any Muslim organisation in the country.

TOGO

New Soviet Envoy Presents Credentials

AB192240 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpts] His Excellency (Shaberdien Danievich), the new USSR ambassador to Togo, this morning presented his credentials to the president of the Republic. He thus replaces His Excellency Ivan Ilyukhin.

The Soviet diplomat was introduced at the president's office to present his credentials in the presence of Foreign Minister Koffi Amega and Gbenyon Amegboh, minister delegate at the presidency in charge of information.

To reporters, (Sergey Shaberdien Danievich) expressed his satisfaction in assuming his new function in these terms:

[Begin (Danievich) recording] I have just presented to His Excellency Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the Republic, the letters of credence by which the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has accredited me to the Togolese head of state as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Togo.

I must say that I was greatly impressed by the solemn ceremony and the friendly discussions I had with the president of the Republic.

Gentlemen, the leadership of my country has charged me as ambassador to work for the strengthening of fruitful and friendly cooperation for the benefit of our two nations and in the interest of universal peace. Of course, universal peace is a burning issue of topical interest to which most are sensitive.

Faithful to the teachings of Benin, the patriotic founder of the USSR, Konstantin Chernenko, will continue to do everything possible for a better international situation in the interest of people's security and peace. It is well known in the USSR how deeply attached Togo is to the ideals of peace, disarmament, and international cooperation. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Cooperation Protocol Signed With GDR Delegation

MB180938 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Our country and the GDR today signed in Luanda a cooperation protocol in the scientific, technical, and trade fields, after talks which have been held over several days. Signing the accord were Ismael Martins, minister of foreign trade, and Horst Soelle, the GDR foreign trade minister.

It should be recalled that the GDR delegation, which has been in Angola for several days, visited Uige Province, where it learned of the region's economic, social, political, and military situation. According to the schedule of its visit to Angola the GDR delegation headed by Horst Soelle is expected to meet with Carlos Fernandes, secretary of state for cooperation.

Portuguese Reporters Interview Leaders

MB180919 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] The UNITA puppet group is not able to occupy any region of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Kundi Payama, Benguela provincial commissioner, said when he gave an interview to Portuguese newspaper *O DIARIO*. The Benguela provincial commissioner said that the UNITA armed bandits limit their actions to treacherous attacks and burning villages, without respect for human lives.

The People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola are continuously carrying out military operations and encircling the bandits who consequently die of hunger and cold. As a result of this action, a number of UNITA elements have surrendered to Angolan authorities for reintegration into Angolan society, the Benguela provincial commissioner added.

In Namibe Province, Comrade Faustino Muteka, the provincial commissioner, also speaking to the Portuguese newspaper *O DIARIO*, said that Namibe is not free from aggression and sabotage actions perpetrated by the South African Army, which today continues to occupy a portion of the Angolan territory.

In turn, Comrade Lopo do Nascimento, minister of planning, also speaking to Portuguese journalists, said that South African aggression and the terrorist attacks of the UNITA criminals have caused a delay in the economic development of the People's Republic of Angola. The Angolan official further said that the national work force has been seriously afffected by this war. There are about 300,000 displaced people currently living in the country, and those people need social support. Often they cannot contribute with their effort toward socially useful tasks, Angolan Minister of Planning Lopo do Nascimento emphasized.

'Saboteurs' Selling Food, Appliances Neutralized

MB201120 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] The Namibe Provincial people's vigilantes recently neutralized a network of saboteurs who were engaging in pilfering and selling at speculative prices large quantities of food stuffs and household applicances.

Enormous quantities of sugar, rice, soap, tinned products, boxes of matches, and toothpaste, as well as refrigerators and other household electrical appliances, were found in possession of individuals who are now in the hands of revolutionary and popular justice. The goods were valued at more than 500,000 kwanza.

It should be recalled that Namibe town, which is capital of Namibe Province, has about 500 people's vigilantes organized in 26 people's vigilante squads that have so far been set up in the area.

KUP Interviews Bulgarian Released by UNITA

MB180706 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 1200 GMT 17 Nov 84

["Exclusive Interview"]

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 17 Nov (KUP) — The interviewee is Emmanuel Milanof Constantinov, a 38-year-old teacher who arrived in Angola on 12 July 1980, was captured at Sumbe Novo Redondo on 25 March 1984, and was freed on 9 November 1984:

We arrived in Angola on 12 July 1980.

Other foreigners and I were not aware of Angola's real situation. We found it in terrible condition, especially in the economic field. Even in Luanda, the shops are empty. They remain open, but the people cannot buy anything, which is very bothersome for any foreigner coming from Europe.

This situation cannot be hidden. At first, we felt like returning to Bulgaria, but we had no special reasons not to complete our 2-year contract. Slowly, we accepted it.

Our capture, on 25 March 1984, was very unexpected. We knew nothing about UNITA, except that it was about finished and would not reach Sumbe. Our capture was therefore a shock for us. It took 20 minutes from the first shot to the moment when the UNITA special commandos entered our apartment. It took just 20 minutes. We did not believe that it was UNITA. We thought that it was a maneuver by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], a FAPLA exercise. We did not think that it was UNITA.

Our lives were in danger, but not because of UNITA. Unfortunately, we were not safe from being bombed by aircraft which were not South African, but were MIG's. They bombed the city. The truck in which we traveled was also bombed and the bomb fell only 20m away.

On the first day, we were in danger when helicopers appeared and began shooting at us. UNITA said that we were very lucky, for they were MPLA helicopters. I was surprised that before UNITA's attack, the helicopters maneuvered for a long time over the city, but when the attack came, they disappeared. They reappeared later, when it was too late. They followed us for 20 days, which really bothered us. In my opinion it was useless. The action by the helicopters was unnecessary.

Contacts with UNITA were limited to the people who were our bodyguards. The truth is that we received very good and kind treatment. We could only thank the tolerance of the soldiers toward us.

At the moment we are not very happy, but I would like to say that during our stay here we got along well with the people, and therefore we had no unnecessary arguments. I believe that our behavior was good so we should not be overjoyed, but we are grateful and happy for that. [sentence as received] We know the soldiers to be kind and during our stay we held open talks with Cap Bundu, who accompanied us. Now we are about to go, and we are happy.

Before I arrived in Angola, my knowledge of Angola had no connection with UNITA. We knew nothing about UNITA.

We did not know that there is an ongoing civil war while we were in Bulgaria. We first heard of UNITA in Angola and certainly only the MPLA's version.

With regard to the Cubans, this is my opinion: Your enemies are the Cubans and, in my opinion, if they continue in Angola this will worsen the Angolan conflict. I will not hide the truth because I come from the Eastern block. We sympathize with the Soviets and we are good friends of Cuba, but we also regret the Angolan and Cuban blood which is being shed. At political level, I think that the conflict between the MPLA and UNITA is an internal issue. Since you do not want the Cubans here, I think that their presence will complicate the issue.

This situation is not something new in history, although we, foreign aid workers, find it difficult to understand. We are in the dark as to how Neto took power while Dr Savimbi was there in Angola. My message in brief is that what the MPLA says about UNITA is not what exists. UNITA cannot be looked down upon. The MPLA is making a very big mistake by disdaining UNITA. You can hate your enemy and kill him, but you must not underestimate him. If you do that, you may end up paying a very high price one day. UNITA troops are highly disciplined and possess high morale. This has been said on various occasions and we are just repeating it.

With regard to foreign aid workers, there is nothing I can say to them but except that whoever wants to risk his life may come to Angola and whoever does not should stay out of this country. The war situation here is more serious than what foreign aid workers outside the country may think. It is very serious. In my opinion, this war will continue because we know what UNITA is. But I cannot tell foreign aid workers whether or not they should come to Angola. That is for them to decide. All I can say is that the war situation is very serious here, very serious indeed.

Doctor Comments on Stay

MB200907 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0600 GMT 20 Nov 84

["Exclusive interview" with Bulgarian Doctor Catarina Constatinova at Jamba, 15 November]

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 20 Nov (KUP) — I am a Bulgarian called Catarina Constantinova. I went to work as a pediatrician in Novo Redondo town. I only worked for 1 year and 6 months in Sumbe.

Living conditions in Angola are not good. There are many difficulties. There is scarcity of food, clothes, and medicines. There is no Resoquin. This is an important drug used for treating Malaria, Falciparum, which usually leads to cerebral malaria. There was a provincial delegate who used to consult me on pediatrics.

The MPLA did not explain everything to us and we thought that the situation was as it was because Angola had become independent barely 10 years ago. The MPLA never told us that it was because of the war. We knew that UNITA existed, but we never imagined that it was as good as it looks to us now. Now we understand perfectly well that it is an organization which is highly disciplined and strong. UNITA people are friendly, sympathetic, and modest.

We now find that people in UNITA are modest and perfect. They are very sympathetic. They sing and dance well. They are communicative. In fact, there are many good things I could say about them. I have been treated well since the beginning. The march was hard since I had never walked on foot for as long as 3 months in my life. Our relations with UNITA combatants and other people were very good. Our problems were always solved very quickly. We have been happy over the past 5 months here. It was a bit hard physically and psychologically, but we are grateful for our release.

Life under war is not a good thing, as many people die. Therefore, the war must end as soon as possible. The people are suffering. I am a mother of a 21-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl. I think that your struggle is first and foremost against the Cubans. You are right to fight them as they have frustrated your program. Jamba, 15 November 1984.

UNITA Claims 143 Angolans, 6 Cubans Killed

PA191610 Paris AFP in Spanish 1536 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Lisbon, 19 Nov (AFP) — UNITA (the armed opposition to the Luanda regime) today claimed to have killed 143 Angolan soldiers and 6 Cubans during actions carried out in three provinces of the country on 11 November. In a communique delivered to AFP in Lisbon, UNITA also said that it had seized 113 weapons and destroyed 19 automobiles.

The actions occurred in Cuanza-Norte Province, east of the Angolan capital, in Bie, in the country's central-southern region, and Huila, in the south. The communique stated that 8 UNITA soldiers were killed and 26 wounded.

MALAWI

Government Warns Strong Action on Profiteering

MB200718 Blantyre Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] The Government of Malawi has issued a very strong warning to some unscrupulous businessmen, who are deliberately overcharging for their goods, that they will be punished severely. Announcing this in Lilongwe yesterday a spokesman of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Tourism said it had come to the attention of the government that some businessmen are deliberately charging customers more than it costs them to import all manufactured products, plus the spare parts.

The spokesman said once again the government was issuing a stern warning to these unscrupulous businessmen, adding that, once found, they will be dealt with severely. He went on to say that, if necessary, the influence of the law will be used to deport the culprit to his country of origin.

In a statement, the spokesman explained that the recent increase in the cost of goods and services was caused by high transport costs and high landing costs of goods, which have to be hauled from far places like Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, or Durban in South Africa, instead of nearby Mozambican ports. But the spokesman emphasized that this was no justification for unscrupulous businessmen to profiteer instead of making a fair profit.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Attends Ceremony Marking Law Day

MB171248 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The main ceremony to mark the Law and the Mozambican People's Police [PPM] Day took place at the sports stadium in Maputo this morning. Present at the ceremony was President Samora Machel, who was accompanied by members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and the Council of Ministers as well as other party and government officials. For more information here is our reporter:

[Unidentified reporter] President Samora Machel arrived here at the sports stadium at about 0915. He was welcomed by members of the PPM who, after playing the national anthem, asked him to inspect the guard of honor. President Samora Machel then greeted the PPM on the occasion of Law Day celebrations. Thereafter, there was a march past by the PPM and performance of various activities.

RSA Economic Team Discusses Agriculture, Industry

MB191846 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] A 15-member South African economic delegation met in Maputo today with representatives of Mozambique's various sectors of activity. The meeting served to identify priority projects in Mozambique. According to a Mozambican source, ports and railways, as well as agriculture and industry, were regarded as priority areas. In the field of agriculture, work will be geared toward the production of consumer goods for Mozambique and for export. Moreover, discussions are in progress to begin a sanitary assistance program and home improvement for agricultural workers.

Today's meeting between the Mozambican and South African delegations decided that the implementation of priority projects will be coordinated by the respective sectors. The delegations were led by Prakash Ratilala, governor of the Bank of Mozambique, and (J. Bauer), a top official of the South African credit insurance company.

Armed Forces Kill 31 'Bandits' in Operations

MB180601 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Our Armed Forces killed three bandits and captured two weapons from the enemy in Nhamareze, Sofala Province, on 8 November. On the same day in Marromeu, the Mozambican Armed Forces captured two armed bandits. A military source said in Maputo that on 11 November, our Armed Forces killed another six armed bandits in Tete Province and captured another three in M'tama area. In this region, the FPLM destroyed the enemy camp and captured a quantity of military equipment from the criminals.

In Manica, the Mozambican Armed Forces annihilated 10 armed bandits in Choquera and captured cartridges, 3 rockets, and a considerable quantity of ammunition. Also in Manica, our forces destroyed an enemy camp in (Gamano) and killed three criminals. In Inhambane, our Armed Forces stormed an armed bandit camp in Vilanculos and killed eight bandits. In Maputo, the FPLM killed one armed bandit in the Chambela area.

'Bandits' Murder 11 in Sofala

MB180954 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0800 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] A group of armed bandits murdered 11 people and wounded another 4 during an attack on a village commune in Mutuchira, Nhamatanda District, Sofala Province, toward the end of October. The murder of these citizens took place one morning when people assembled at a place where the criminals, disguised as elements of our Armed Forces, claimed to have urgent information to convey to the people. Subsequently, the armed bandits opened fire on the gathering. On this occasion, the criminals also burned the huts of villagers.

Implicated in this murderous act is Jose Francisco Sixpence, a member of the activist group of Inhangoma, who collaborated with the armed bandits in carrying out this crime. He is presently being detained by our defense and security forces.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Leader Notes No New Moves on Independence

MB192030 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1900 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma says there have been no new developments in efforts to achieve independence in Namibia. Nujoma says there are false reports, emanating particularly from Washington, saying there has been progress, but he says in reality there is no progress.

Speaking in Lusaka, Nujoma attacked South African plans to introduce conscription in Namibia. He says South Africa is preparing for a unilateral declaration of independence for the territory. He has also condemned the British-based Barclays and Standard Banks for, in his words, inducing or compelling their laborers into illegal recruitment for the Army.

SWAPO Urges Rejection of RSA Conscription

MB200733 Harare Voice of Namibia in English
1900 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Our burning issue for tonight is on the force that is being applied upon the Namibian workers to register into racist South Africa's Defence Force and the so-called South West Africa Territory Force in Namibia by the racist regime of Pretoria. The pronouncement came out in the Namibian paper *THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER* of 9 November this year. Having realized that the war, which is waged by SWAPO of Namibia to liberate the whole of Namibia, has for the past years now liquidated a large number of its own forces in several operations, racist South Africa was forced to conscript Namibians into its war.

The conscription of Namibians by the racist regime in the territory is rejected categorically by SWAPO. Of late, Comrade Tjongarero, who is SWAPO's deputy national chairman, issued a statement in Windhoek where he said, and we quote: There is no way in which SWAPO will allow itself to be associated with racist South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, either administratively, economically, or militarily. Conscription in South Africa's Armed Forces means a perpetration of its rule over Namibia, unquote.

On the same issue, the UN Council for Namibia condemned the extention of South African conscriptions to Namibia and supported the right of the Namibians to resist the move. The council further went on to say that it would work to mobilize international support for Namibians opposing conscription. Lastly, the council urged the UN General Assembly and Security Council to take steps to protect Namibians from conscription by racist South Africa.

Many people may wonder as to why the regime of occupation wants to conscript the oppressed people of Namibia into its war. But if we look at this issue critically, we shall find that the regime of Pretoria is no longer able to defend its apartheid system with its so-called Defense and Territorial Force because of the intensification of the war of liberation by SWAPO of Namibia. The number of the enemy forces in the disputed territory has decreased, and as such, the enemy is failing to prevent PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] combatant activities inside the country, because the casualties on the enemy are increasing day and night.

SWAPO also sees this move as a step that is aimed at forcing Namibians to fight each other, so that at the end the regime of Pretoria may have a good excuse to refuse the implementation of Resolution 435, and continue to establish a nonrepresentative government in Namibia, which will protect the apartheid system in Namibia.

Thus, fellow countrymen, SWAPO calls upon you to see to it that this move is completely rejected, for it is aimed at delaying Namibia's liberation. Let us act heroically in opposition to enemy ploys which lead the spirit of nationalist and freedom to nowhere. Pretoria has to be forced to sign a cease-fire and implement UN Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia, or else the war of liberation has to continue until final victory is achieved. As the Comrade (Binga) case is still fresh in our minds, which is the spirit of (?party unity), we have to act in the same way. Countrymen, SWAPO is the people and the people are SWAPO. The struggle continues.

SOUTH AFRICA

Joint Angola Monitoring Commission Meets

MB191620 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria has confirmed that the South African-Angola joint monitoring commission met again today. The meeting took place at N'Giva, about 50 km north of the Angolan/South-West African border.

JMC Urges Top-Level Meeting

MB201019 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0802 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Pretoria, Nov 20, SAPA — A meeting between South African and Angolan ministerial delegations has been proposed by officials from both countries to decide on the final withdrawal of South African troops to the border of SWA/Namibia and Angola.

In an announcement from Pretoria today, a foreign affairs spokeman said the Joint Monitoring Commission [JMC] at a meeting in Ngiva yesterday decided that the top-level meeting should take place "as soon as possible".

The ministerial talks, the JMC decided, should also "reach an agreement which would ensure peace and stability along the SWA/Namibian-Angolan border after the completion of the JMC'S functions."

The JMC meeting yesterday was the first in several months after what appeared to be a breakdown in negotiations on a South African Defence Force withdrawal from Angolan territory.

Both sides were represented by top military officials, South African chief of the Army, General Jannie Geldenhuys, and Angola's deputy chief of staff for FAPLA, Lieutenant-Colonel Ngongo Monteiro.

According to the foreign affairs statement, the 1-day talks at the JMC's present headquarters, about 50 km north of the SWA/Namibian-Angolan border, also centered on what would happen after the JMC had moved back to the borderline and had completed its functions.

Particular mention was made of the Ruacana/Calueque scheme on the two countries common border, and the JMC said technical experts from SWA/Namibia and Angola should meet as soon as possible to discuss matters affecting the giant hydro-electric scheme.

Security Chief Discusses Counterespionage

MB191854 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The chief of the security police, Major General (Stan Schutte), says the national intelligence service conducts very effective counterespionage operations. Gen (Schutte) was reacting to allegations by a former Romanian agent in France that the Soviet KGB was training spies in Eastern Europe to enable them to enter South Africa as immigrants. The agent, who appeared on French television on Thursday, after surrendering to the French authorities 2 years ago, said the KGB plan had failed because of the South African decision not to accept any more Eastern European immigrants.

Gen (Schutte) said counterespionage, which was coordinated by the intelligence service, was very effective. He was not prepared to say more concerning the allegations made in France.

PFP Leaders Resign Over Party Policies

MP's Quit Defense Positions

MB191554 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The Progressive Federal Party [PFP] member of parliament for Wynberg, Mr Philip Myburgh, has resigned as the party's official spokesman on defense, in protest at the decision by the PFP Federal Council to actively oppose national service in South Africa. At the same time, the member of parliament for Yeoville, Mr Harry Schwarz, resigned as a member of the party's defense group in Parliament. Mr Scharwz also asked the federal congress to reverse its decisions taken at the weekend, to admit members of all races and to press for an end to conscription.

In a statement this afternoon, Mr Myburgh said he had resigned after a meeting with the leader of the PFP, Dr van Zyl Slabbert. He said he had examined his conscience, and had found that the substantial change in party policy differed from what he, as its official spokesman on defense, had advocated. Mr Myburgh said he believed the new policy would have the effect of weakening the Defense Force, and dividing the country on the issue of defense. He felt that a depoliticized Defense Force correctly and fairly employed, could protect all the peoples of South Africa in this period of transition.

Slabbert Assumes Vacated Posts

MB191615 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1551 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Cape Town, Nov 19, SAPA — The leader of the opposition, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, has taken over as the PFP's spokesman on defence following the resignation of Mr Philip Myburgh. In a statement issued through his Cape Town office this afternoon, Dr Slabbert said he accepted Mr Myburgh's resignation with regret. He appreciated the work Mr Myburgh had done and wished to make clear his confidence in the former defence spokesman as a member of the PFP caucus. "Until further notice, I will be the party's spokesman on defence," the PFP leader said.

"I wish to make it categorically clear that the resolution adopted by the Federal Council must not be seen in vacou, but in conjunction with the PFP's defence policy, which states very clearly the need for an effective, strong, and enlarged professional Army. I believe precisely because in a period of transition and reform, a strong Defence Force has a vital role to play in providing stability, anything which undermines this effectiveness and makes it part of the political controversy, should be done away with. It is against this background that I believe we have to reconsider and press for the end of conscription.

"I have studied Mr Myburgh's statement and obviously Mr Myburgh is extremely upset because of the reaction of the congress and the Federal Council and he prefers to interpret the resolution in this rather negative manner. There is clearly a difference of interpretation and opinion between us on the meaning and implementation of the Federal Council resolution.

"In my new capacity as the party's spokesman on defence, I will make it abundantly clear that the party is in no way actively going to oppose military service, nor in any way undermine the role of the defence," said Dr Slabbert. "On the contrary, I share with Mr Myburgh the conviction that a politically neutral Defence Force is absolutely essential and that in a period of transition, it should be seen to be so...

"In due course, I will release a full statement spelling out exactly how I see this to be possible and at the same time bringing an end to conscription as we have it at present. There is no doubt in my mind that the dividing issue ... is not the resolution that we have taken, but the way in which the conscripts are being used in military action... we must apply our minds to preventing this controversy escalating," Dr Slabbert said.

Party in 'Disarray'; More Quit

MB191957 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1924 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Nov 19, SAPA — The Progressive Federal Party was in disarray today as leading rightwingers came out in opposition to the party's weekend decisions to open membership to all races and to actively oppose conscription in the SA Defence Force. Mr Philip Myburgh, MP for Wynberg, announced he had resigned as parliamentary spokesman on defence this morning.

Mr Harry Schwarz, MP for Yeoville, said he was calling on party leader, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, to hold a Federal Congress of the party so that he could try and persuade the party to reverse the weekend decisions of the Federal Council. The Federal Congress is the party's highest decision making body and can overrule the Federal Council. Mr Schwarz also resigned as a member of the PFP'S defence group in Parliament.

In addition to Mr Myburgh and Mr Schwarz, two other MP's have expressed their opposition to the party's anti-conscription decision by resigning from the PFP's Defence Committee. They are Major Reuben Sive, MP for Bezuidenhout, and Mr Alf Widman, MP for Hillbrow.

The position of a fifth member of the defence committee, Mr Brian Goodall, MP for Edenvale, is not clear. In a statement to SAPA tonight he denied earlier reports that he had resigned from the defence group but said, "I have offered to resign if Dr Slabbert feels that I cannot represent the viewpoint of the party congress."

Caucus Set to 'Resolve Differences'

MB200706 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] The leader of the Progressive Federal Party, PFP, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, announced in Port Elizabeth last night that a full party caucus will be held on Thursday to resolve differences within the party. Speaking at a fund raising dinner, Dr Slabbert denied that a rift had developed within party ranks. He said a rift only existed when members actually left the party, but not when members of the party's defense council resigned their posts.

Addressing a news conference after the dinner, Dr Slabbert disagreed with Mr Dave Dalling, PFP member for Sandton, who said that opening membership for people of all races was tantamount to inciting people to break the Prohibition of Political Interference Act.

Officials React To PFP Dissension

Comment on Mixed Membership

MB191524 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis has refused to comment on the decision by the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] to allow blacks to join the party. In reply to a question, Mr Heunis told our Pretoria staff that he would not comment on decisions by a political party as long as such decisions were in accordance with the country's laws.

Mr Heunis also pointed out that the law on political interference is being examined by a parliamentary select committee. The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Heunis, was appointed on 9 July.

The Federal Council of the PFP decided yesterday to open membership of the party to members of other population groups. This followed a decision of the Transvaal congress of the party earlier this weekend to abide by the provisions of the act concerned and to limit membership to whites only.

Defense Minister on Resignations

MB191935 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1906 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Pretoria, Nov 19, SAPA — It would be a bad day for the country if the Progressive Federal Party decided to "cooperate with South Africa's enemies" and participate in the United Democratic Front's "end conscription" campaign, the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, said in a statement tonight.

Gen Malan, commenting on the resignation of Mr Harry Schwarz, Mr Alf Woodman, Mr Philip Myburgh, and Major Reuben Sive from the PFP's defence group today, said it was a "serious loss to myself and the Defence Force."

"I have fundamental political differences with the people involved who are members of a party whose policies I totally reject. But I have great appreciation for the responsible attitude which these members adopted over the past years and their cooperation in keeping politics out of defence," said Gen Malan.

He said it had been noted in the immediate past the "severe pressure" which the four men and others in the party had experienced from the radical left regarding defence matters. He said that as far as he could see, the leader of the opposition, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, had adopted a neutral attitude. Gen Malan said he hoped the PFP leader would not allow radicals to take control of the defence group in the party. "It will be a bad day for South Africa if the official opposition is going to cooperate with South Africa's enemies to try and weaken our defence by participating in the UDF's end conscription campaign," Gen Malan said.

Business Groups Decry Detentions in Labor Unrest

MB190952 Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English
18 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[By Jean le May, political correspondent]

[Text] Delicate negotiations between big business and black labour were shattered this week when hardliners in the cabinet seized the initiative for strong-arm tactics to control township unrest.

The wave of detentions and arrests came as rumours of impending unrest swept the white community although newspapers, besieged by callers, were unable to substantiate them.

The detention of 12 trade union leaders and the arrest of more than 2,500 people coincided with the start of negotiations to avert another labour stayaway.

Mr Piroshaw Camy, leader of South Africa (CUSA), was detained the morning after he had had in formal discussions with executives of the Federated Chamber of Industries (FCI).

This has been confirmed by Dr Johan van Zyl, executive director of the FCI, who told foreign and local newspapers: "We were making good progress — until the detentions began."

Mr Tony Bloom, chairman of the Premier Group, said the FCI had been "in the middle of negotiations" when the trade unionists were detained.

"We attempt to play a low key negotiating role," he said. "I am sorry that Mr le Grange reacted the way he did because it upped the temperature on the government side — it was already pretty high on the other side."

The strong-arm tactics brought organised commerce and industry — which only a year ago gave Mr P.W. Botha then prime minister, solid support in the referendum — into open conflict with the government.

In an unprecedented public protest, the country's three major employer organisations — the FCI, the Afrikaanse Association of Chambers of Commerce (ASSOCOM) — condemned the detentions.

They warned the government that "harmonious and productive relations" with workers were at stake and urged it to hold top-level discussions with key industrial, commercial and labour organisations involved in the unrest as soon as possible.

The cabinet hardliners identified by political sources as Mr Louis le Grange, minister of law and order, General Magnus Malan, minister of defence, and Mr F.W. de Klerk, minister of home affairs and national education, were said by the same sources to have prevailed over protests from colleagues who urged consultation with blacks rather than police action.

All three men have taken hardline positions in public. Mr le Grange, justifying the detentions in a speech in Virginia this week, said some of the detained leaders had been on a "core committee" which organised the stayaway on November 5 and 6 when an estimated 800,000 blacks stayed away from work in the Pretoria/ Witwatelsran/Vereeniging area.

Mr de Klerk, in a speech in Cape Town said "certain elements" must be removed from trade unions, while Mr Malan, accepting the freedom of Edenvale on Friday, said unrest in the townships was proof of the total onslaught against South Africa, which, he added, was added, was now "a reality". Dr Gerrit Viljoe, minister of co-operation and development, and at least one other minister urged a more conciliatory approach, the sources said.

Mr Pietie du Plessis, minister of manpower, said in an interview with the *SUNDAY EXPRESS* that police action was not directed against the trade unions, but against individuals.

"There are still plenty of trade union leaders left to negotiate with employers," he said.

Officials at director-general level in several government departments are deeply distressed by the detentions, according to the same sources.

The position of the Reverend Allan Hendrickse, minister without portfolio from the (coloured) House of Representatives, appears to be ambivalent.

He responded to requests for a telephone interview with the statement that he disapproved of detentions without trial except in cases where the minister of law and order had "adequate reasons."

Mr Amichand Rajbansi, minister without portfolio from the (Indian) House of Delegates, was "unavailable".

Business sources said the government's ambivalent approach to trade unions had more than once been criticised at the highest level — within the Manpower Commission, a permanent commission of the Department of Manpower.

The criticisms were to the effect that while the department itself maintained an "arm's length" approach to negotiations with trade unions, negotiations had been upset previously by precipitate police action against the people with whom negotiations were being conducted.

"The government tells us they have given us the machinery and that it is up to us to negotiate with the trade unions — then they step in and detain the very people we are negotiating with," said a source.

A top-level company representative on one of the employers' bodies described the difficulty experienced by many employers in accepting that the stayaway had had a vast groundswell of support.

His interpretation was that they had fallen for the official line that the stayaway had been organised by a relatively small body of people and that intimidation — not grassroot support — was responsible for the extensive stayaway.

ASSOCOM and the FCI plan to discuss the issue with Mr le Grange this week.

Mr Raymond Parsons of ASSOCOM said that "organised commerce does not propose to respond publicly to Mr le Grange on this matter." ASSOCOM would discuss "the whole question of stayaways, intimidation, violence in the townships and the role of trade unions" with Mr le Grange.

"We hope that this meeting will clear up any misunderstandings about the views of the private sector," Mr Parsons said.

Journalists To Appear in Court on Security Issues

MB181036 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1000 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Three Johannesburg journalists are to appear in court this week in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act. The three, Anton Harber, Jeanette Minnie, and Graham Watts, have been served with subpoenas in terms of which a person thought to have relevant material or information about an alleged offense may be questioned by a magistrate.

Watts has been told that he will have to answer questions about an interview with the head of the Transvaal Stayaway Committee, Thami Mali, who is currently in Security Police detention. The tape Watts used to record the interview has been seized in terms of a search warrant issued by the magistrate.

Police say they are investigating charges in terms of the Internal Security Act against Mali and others which deal with subversion. Mali and almost the entire committee which organized the 2-day stayaway in the Transvaal last week have been detained by Security Police.

Journalists Protest Subpoena

MB191030 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The government is trying to kill press freedom. That is the response of the Southern African Society of Journalists [SASj] after police issued orders for four journalists to appear in court to answer questions. SASJ President (Pat Siddeley) says the police action forces journalists to become part of the state's policing activity. She says the move will bring international contempt. Siddeley has also hit at State President P.W. Botha for accusing certain newspapers of irresponsible reporting. She says Botha should take his complaints to the Media Council.

[Begin (Siddeley) recording] Correct procedure when anybody has got a problem with a newspaper is to mention it to the editor and if indeed they have publised what he calls lies, then there is obviously grounds for complaint. But newspapers are not in the habit of publishing lies, nor are journalists in the habit of writing lies, and so if there is going to be some philosophical disagreement, the correct place for it is the Media Council, which he set up. [end recording]

SWAZILAND

Crown Prince Makhosetive Arrives from UK

MB191747 Mbabane Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The Crown Prince Makhosetive arrived in the country today, for what is described as the most significant of Swaziland's traditional ceremonies at the end of this year, which will prepare the prince for ultimate kingship. The ceremony, known as simemo, can be best described as a small incwala or first fruits [of the harvest] ceremony in which the crown prince will be the central figure. The simemo, like the incwala, in which the late King Sobhuza II participated annually, is expected to take place as did the incwala, during the full moon phase at the end of December or early January.

On arrival at Matsapa airport, the crown prince inspected a guard of honor mounted by the Swaziland Defense Force. He was welcomed by among others, the prime minister Prince Bhekimpi, members of the supreme council of state, members of the royal family, Cabinet ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Foreign Minister Returns From OAU Summit

MB191806 Mbabane Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, returned home yesterday from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he attended the 20th summit of heads of state and government of the OAU. In a press conference held at his office this afternoon, the minister said the summit was highly successful in that it concentrated on the economic problems of the African continent.

He said political problems were dealt with in a highly diplomatic manner, so as to avoid the crisis of the past 2 years. The summit unanimously elected President Julius Nyerere, of the Republic of Tanzania, as its new chairman.

Following the resignation of Morocco and the suspension of membership of Zaire, Mr Mnisi said a good number of states, including Swaziland, expressed their reservations on the admission of the Polisario Front, but it was clear that since there are more burning problems to be considered, they would not walk out.

He said the summit also adopted a resolution on special emergency assistance for drought and famine in Africa. On Southern Africa, the summit recognizes special responsibility to give the maximum possible support to the independent states as they struggle to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of South African aggression.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Predicts Gradual Economic Recovery

MB191919 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] President Kaunda said today that Zambia's economy has taken as upward swing over the past few (?months) and predicted a gradual recovery, given proper management by both private and public sectors.

When he opened a 5-day industrial participatory seminar workshop at Mulungushi Hall today, the president urged the parastatal (?sector) to lead the way towards total economic boom. But

Dr Kaunda attacked the elitist attitude of some parastatal managers, which he blamed for sporadic industrial unrest since the state took control over public business enterprises. He said such attitudes had adversely affected productivity, and called for immediate transformation in line with the country's humanistic policies.

Dr Kaunda also spoke about the apprehension of some private and parastatal business executives towards the involvement of workers in industrial decisionmaking processes, saying many of them still thought that the idea was too revolutionary, and that it lacked business value. The president, however, also restated the government's determination to promote worker participation in management decisions [word indistinct] he said, increased industrial harmony and eliminated suspicions of workers' exploitation by management.

In a major statement on economy and industry, President Kaunda also pointed out that collective bargaining in industry was not the best (?method) in workers' strikes for better working conditions and higher salaries, because it provided only [words indistinct]. The president preferred what he described as workers' (?self-management) in which workers were part and parcel of all decisions taken by their employers.

ZIMBABWE

Crocker, Mugabe, Mangwende Hold Talks

MB191307 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The United States assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, has held talks with the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, this morning. He also (?called on the) minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende. The assistant secretary of state is on a southern African tour to consult with leaders [word indistinct]. He leaves for Mozambique tomorrow.

'Dissidents' Kill Two People Near Masvingo

MB191838 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Police have reported that dissidents murdered two people 40 km south of Masvingo. The dissidents who committed the murder on Wednesday were wearing Father Zimbabwe badges. Security forces are carrying out follow-up operations. The names of the two people who were murdered are being withheld until next of kin have been informed.

New Mashonaland Central Provincial Chairman Named

MB180552 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpt] A member of the ZANU-PF Central Committee, Comrade George Rutanhire, was yesterday elected provincial chairman for the party's Mashonaland Central Province. His deputy is Comrade (Kadune Zumumba).

Commentary on Dismissal of Cabinet Ministers

MB191738 Harare THE HERALD in English 14 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "The Sackings"]

[Text] The dismissal by the prime minister on Monday of the two ZAPU Cabinet ministers, Mr John Nkomo and Mr Cephas Msipa, was bound to happen. ZAPU had it coming. That party had long toyed with the government's patience by not heeding repeated warnings to it to stop the murderous acts of dissidents whom everyone knows to owe their allegiance to ZAPU.

But what do we hear today? Not only does the ZAPU president, Dr Joshua Nkomo, squeal about the sacking of his men; he also adds insult to injury by charging the ruling party with an attempt to create a crisis in Zimbabwe so that his party could be banned. Nothing could be further from the truth.

His charge is as absurd as his claim at a ZAPU meeting in Bulawayo on Sunday. After saying that his party was not responsible for the murder by dissidents in Beitbridge last Friday of ZANU (PF) Senator Moven Ndlovu, Dr Nkomo asserted that dissidents were agents of the government sent to disturb the peace in the communal areas.

Such remarks should be seen as an attempt to deviate from the real problem by introducing extraneous issues. Worse, the remarks, coming as they do from a man who is a national leader, can only harden attitudes rather than ameliorate an already delicate situation.

The sacking of Mr Msipa and the Mr Nkomo can only mean that in the eyes of the government ZAPU, with the onus long thrust on it, has failed to exculpate itself on the dissident issue.

The sacking should therefore not be twisted into an election issue. Indeed, it is a measure of the government's tolerance that the pair had continued to enjoy the privileges and protection of their Cabinet posts for so long at all while their party stood accused of involvement with dissidents.

The writing is now on the wall. The government has said "enough is enough." But there is still time to remedy the situation if there is determination and goodwill among all political parties to eliminate banditry.